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Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number:

0 328 200
A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 89200244.5

(51) Int. Cl. 4: C07D 453/02 , C07D 451/00 ,
C07D 413/04 , C07D 417/04

(22) Date of filing: 03.02.89

Claims for the following Contracting States: ES
+ GR.

(30) Priority: 12.02.88 GB 8803317
06.05.88 GB 8810789

(43) Date of publication of application:
16.08.89 Bulletin 89/33

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE

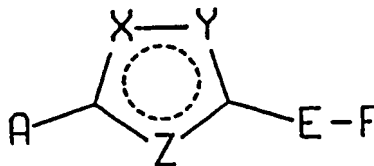
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(54) Five-membered ring systems with bonded azacyclic ring substituents.

(57) The present invention provides a compound of formula I or a salt or prodrug thereof:

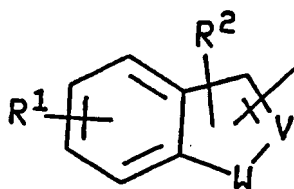


(I)

wherein the dotted circle represents one or two double bonds in any position in the 5-membered ring;
X, Y and Z independently represent oxygen, sulphur, nitrogen or carbon, provided that at least one of X, Y
and Z represents oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen;
A represents a group of formula II:

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(II)

in which:

R¹ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, halogen, amino, cyano, -CONR⁶R⁷ or -SO₂NR⁶R⁷, in which R⁶ and R⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl or C₂₋₆ alkynyl;

R² represents hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl;

V represents nitrogen, -CH or -C-; and

W represents oxygen, sulphur or -NR⁸, in which R⁸ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl or C₂₋₆ alkynyl;

E represents a bond or a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and optionally being substituted with hydroxy or phenyl; and

F represents:

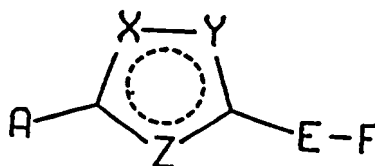
a) a non-aromatic azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system; or

b) a group of formula -NR^aR^b, in which R^a and R^b independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl or aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl; which compounds are useful in the treatment of psychotic disorders (e.g. schizophrenia and mania); anxiety; alcohol or drug withdrawal; pain; gastric stasis; gastric dysfunction (such as occurs with dyspepsia, peptic ulcer, reflux oesophagitis and flatulence); migraine, nausea and vomiting; and presenile and senile dementia.

FIVE-MEMBERED RING SYSTEMS WITH BONDED AZACYCLIC RING SUBSTITUENTS

This invention relates to a class of 5-membered heterocyclic compounds having at least one heteroatom, which are useful in the treatment of psychotic disorders (e.g. schizophrenia and mania); anxiety; alcohol or drug withdrawal; pain; gastric stasis; gastric dysfunction (such as occurs with dyspepsia, peptic ulcer, reflux oesophagitis and flatulence); migraine, nausea and vomiting; and presenile and senile dementia (also known as Alzheimer's disease and senile dementia of the Alzheimer type respectively).

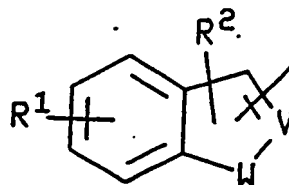
The present invention provides a compound of formula I or a salt or prodrug thereof:



(I)

wherein the dotted circle represents one or two double bonds in any position in the 5-membered ring; X, Y and Z independently represent oxygen, sulphur, nitrogen or carbon, provided that at least one of X, Y and Z represents oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen;

A represents a group of formula II:



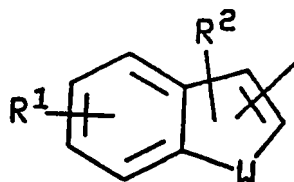
(II)

in which:
 R^1 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, C_1-6 alkyl, C_2-6 alkenyl, C_2-6 alkynyl, C_1-6 alkoxy, hydroxy(C_1-6)alkyl, halogen, amino, cyano, $-CONR^6R^7$ or $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, in which R^6 and R^7 independently represent hydrogen, C_1-6 alkyl, C_2-6 alkenyl or C_2-6 alkynyl;
 R^2 represents hydrogen, halogen, C_1-6 alkyl, C_1-6 alkoxy or C_1-6 alkylcarbonyl;
 V represents nitrogen, $-CH$ or $-C-$; and
 W represents oxygen, sulphur or $-NR^8$, in which R^8 represents hydrogen, C_1-6 alkyl, C_2-6 alkenyl or C_2-6 alkynyl;
 E represents a bond or a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and optionally being substituted with hydroxy or phenyl; and
 F represents:
 a) a non-aromatic azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system; or
 b) a group of formula $-NR^aR^b$, in which R^a and R^b independently represent hydrogen, C_1-6 alkyl, C_2-6 alkenyl, C_2-6 alkynyl or aryl(C_1-6)alkyl.

The ring shown as formula I may be, for example, a furan, thiophene, pyrrole, oxazole, thiazole, oxazoline, isoxazoline, thiazoline, oxadiazole, thiadiazole or imidazole ring, in particular a 1,2,4-oxadiazole,

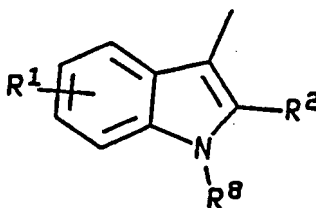
1,3,4-oxadiazole, 1,2,4-thiadiazole or 1,3,4-thiadiazole ring. Preferably the ring is a 1,2,4-oxadiazole or 1,2,4-thiadiazole ring.

The group A is suitably an indole, benzofuran or benzthiophene, of formula IIa:



(IIA)

wherein R¹, R² and W are as defined above. Preferably, the group A represents an indole of structure IIB:

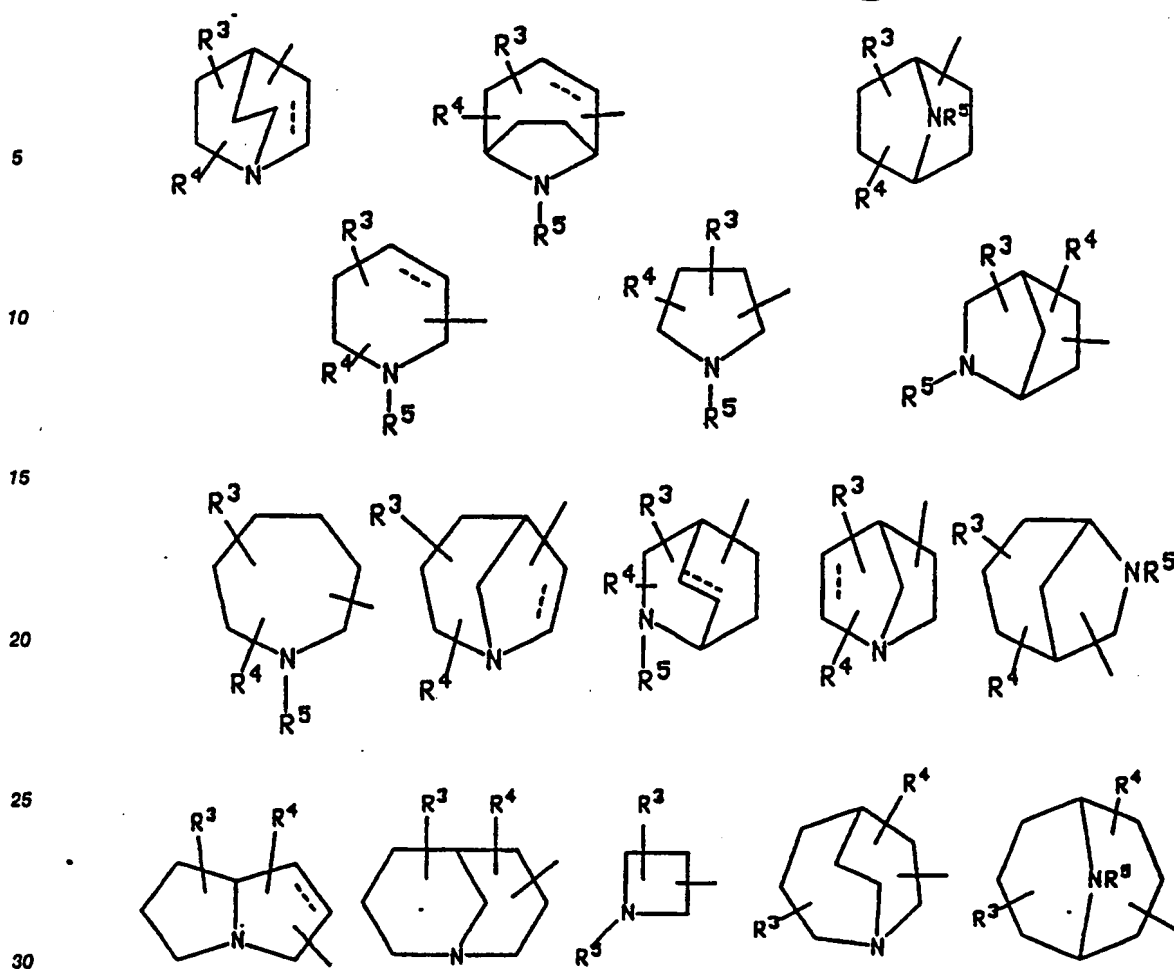


(IIB)

wherein R¹, R² and R⁸ are as defined above. Preferably R¹ and R⁸ independently represent hydrogen or methyl, and R² is hydrogen.

The alkylene chain E may be, for example, methylene, ethylene, 1-methylethylene, propylene, 2-methylpropylene, hydroxymethylene, 1-hydroxyethylene or phenylmethylene. Alternatively the group E may represent a single bond so that the group F is attached directly to the ring.

When the group F is an azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system, it is a non-aromatic ring system containing one nitrogen atom as the sole heteroatom. Suitably the ring system contains from 4 to 10 ring atoms, preferably from 5 to 9 ring atoms. The bicyclic systems may be fused, spiro or bridged. Examples of suitable ring systems include the following:



wherein the broken line represents an optional chemical bond;

R^3 and R^4 independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, halogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy, hydroxy, carboxy or C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl; or R^3 and R^4 together represent carbonyl; and R^5 represents hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl or C_{2-4} alkynyl.

It will be appreciated that the nitrogen atom in the azacyclic or azabicyclic ring will carry a lone pair of electrons.

It will equally be appreciated that the R^3 and R^4 substituents may be present at any position in the azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system, including the point of attachment to the group E. It will further be appreciated that the point of attachment of the azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system to the group E will be at any position of the ring system.

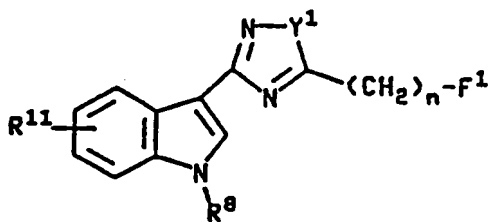
Suitably the group R^3 is hydrogen or methyl; and R^4 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl or hydroxy, preferably methoxy, methyl or hydroxy. Preferably one or both of R^3 and R^4 is hydrogen.

Suitably the azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system is pyrrolidine, piperidine, tetrahydropyridine, azanorbornane, quinuclidine, isoquinuclidine, azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane or azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane, any of which may be optionally substituted with methoxy, methyl or hydroxy.

When the group F represents $-NR^aR^b$, suitable examples of this group include amino; alkylamino such as methylamino; dialkylamino such as dimethylamino; and di(aralkyl)amino such as dibenzylamino.

The alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups referred to with respect to any of the above formulae may represent straight, branched or cyclic groups. Thus, for example, suitable alkyl groups include methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec-, iso- or tert-butyl, and cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl; suitable alkenyl groups include vinyl and allyl; and suitable alkynyl groups include propargyl.

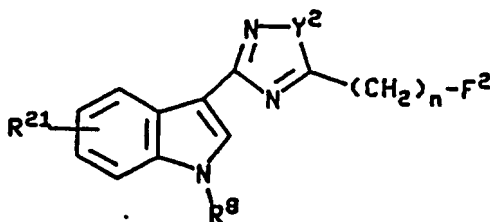
One sub-class of compounds within the scope of the present invention is represented by formula III:



(III)

wherein R^8 is as defined above; Y^1 represents oxygen or sulphur; n is zero, 1 or 2; R^{11} represents hydrogen, hydroxy or hydroxymethyl; and F^1 represents a group of formula $-NR^aR^b$ as defined above.

A further sub-class of compounds within the scope of the present invention is represented by formula IV:



(IV)

wherein R^8 is as defined above; Y^2 represents oxygen or sulphur; n is zero, 1 or 2; R^{21} represents hydrogen, halogen, cyano or C_{1-6} alkyl; and F^2 represents a non-aromatic azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system; in particular wherein F^2 represents piperidine, tetrahydropyridine, azanorbornane, quinuclidine, isoquinuclidine, 8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane or azabicyclononane.

Most of the compounds of this invention have at least one asymmetric centre and often more than one; and can therefore exist both as enantiomers and as diastereoisomers. In particular, those compounds possessing an unsymmetrical azabicyclic ring system may exist as exo and endo diastereoisomers. It is to be understood that the invention covers all such isomers and mixtures thereof.

Also included within the scope of the present invention are salts of the novel compounds. It will be appreciated that salts of the compounds for use in medicine will be non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Other salts may, however, be useful for the preparation of the compounds of the invention or their non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Acid addition salts, for example, may be formed by mixing a solution of the compound with a solution of a pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic acid such as hydrochloric acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, carbonic acid or phosphoric acid. Salts of amine groups may also comprise the quaternary ammonium salts in which the amino nitrogen atom carries an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aralkyl group. Where the novel compound carries a carboxylic acid group the invention also contemplates salts thereof, preferably non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, such as the sodium, potassium and calcium salts thereof.

Specific compounds of this invention include:

- 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
- 2-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
- 1-methyl-3-[5-dimethylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
- [3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]methyl-trimethylammonium iodide;
- 1-methyl-4-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine;
- 1,1-dimethyl-4-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidinium iodide;
- 1-methyl-3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine;
- 1,1-dimethyl-3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidinium iodide;
- 1-methyl-3-[5-aminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole; 1-methyl-3-[5-methylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;

3-[3-(5-fluoro-1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 1-methyl-3-[5-dimethylaminoethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 5 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[5-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[4-(5-cyanoindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-aza-2-methoxybicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 1-methyl-3-[5-(2-aminoethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 10 1-methyl-3-[5-(2-N-methylaminoethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 1-methyl-3-[5-(2-(1-piperidyl)ethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 6-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 2-methyl-6-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 15 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[3-(1H-indazol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[3-(1H-indazol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[3-(1,7-dimethylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 20 4-[2-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[2-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane;
 3-[3-(1H-indol-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 and salts and prodrugs thereof.

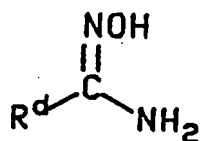
25 This invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The compounds of the invention can be administered orally, parenterally or rectally at a daily dose of about 0.01 to 10 mg/kg of body weight, preferably about 0.1 to 1 mg/kg, and may be administered on a regimen of 1 to 4 times a day.

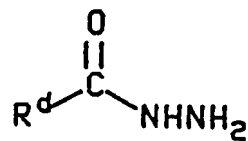
30 The pharmaceutical formulations of this invention preferably are in unit dosage forms such as tablets, pills, capsules, powders, granules, sterile parenteral solutions or suspensions, or suppositories for oral, parenteral or rectal administration. For preparing solid compositions such as tablets, the principal active ingredient is mixed with a pharmaceutical carrier, e.g. conventional tableting ingredients such as corn starch, lactose, sucrose, sorbitol, talc, stearic acid, magnesium stearate, dicalcium phosphate or gums, and
 35 other pharmaceutical diluents, e.g. water, to form a solid preformulation composition containing a homogeneous mixture of a compound of the present invention, or a non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. When referring to these preformulation compositions as homogeneous, it is meant that the active ingredient is dispersed evenly throughout the composition so that the composition may be readily subdivided into equally effective unit dosage forms such as tablets, pills and capsules. This solid
 40 preformulation composition is then subdivided into unit dosage forms of the type described above containing from 0.1 to about 500 mg of the active ingredient of the present invention. The tablets or pills of the novel composition can be coated or otherwise compounded to provide a dosage form affording the advantage of prolonged action. For example, the tablet or pill can comprise an inner dosage and an outer dosage component, the latter being in the form of an envelope over the former. The two components can
 45 be separated by an enteric layer which serves to resist disintegration in the stomach and permits the inner component to pass intact into the duodenum or to be delayed in release. A variety of materials can be used for such enteric layers or coatings, such materials including a number of polymeric acids or mixtures of polymeric acids with such materials as shellac, cetyl alcohol and cellulose acetate.

50 The liquid forms in which the novel compositions of the present invention may be incorporated for administration orally or by injection include aqueous solutions, suitably flavoured syrups and flavoured emulsions with edible oils such as cottonseed oil, sesame oil, coconut oil and peanut oil, as well as elixirs and similar pharmaceutical vehicles. Suitable dispersing or suspending agents for aqueous suspension include synthetic and natural gums such as tragacanth, acacia, alginate, dextran, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, polyvinyl-pyrrolidone and gelatin.

55 The oxadiazole compounds of this invention may be prepared by a process which comprises reacting a reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula $R^c\text{-CO}_2\text{H}$ with a compound either of formula V or of formula VI, or a salt thereof:



(V)

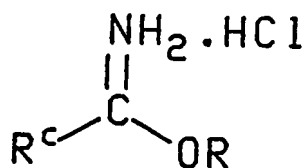


(VI)

wherein one of R^c and R^d is a group of formula A, and the other is a group of formula -E-F, as defined with reference to formula I above.

Suitable reactive derivatives of the acid $\text{R}^c\text{-CO}_2\text{H}$ include esters, for example $\text{C}_1\text{-}_4$ alkyl esters; thioesters, for example pyridylthioesters; acid anhydrides, for example $(\text{R}^c\text{CO})_2\text{O}$; acid halides, for example acid chlorides, orthoesters; and primary, secondary and tertiary amides.

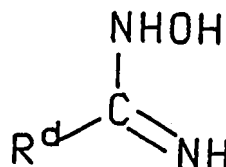
A preferred reactive derivative of the acid $\text{R}^c\text{-CO}_2\text{H}$ is the iminoether derivative of formula VII:



(VII)

where R is $\text{C}_1\text{-}_4$ alkyl.

When the compound of formula V is employed the product of the reaction is a 1,2,4-oxadiazole. It will be appreciated that the compound V can also be considered as the alternative tautomeric form VA:

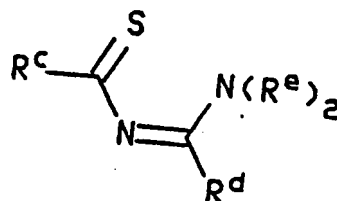


(VA)

A 3-substituted-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl compound is produced if R^c represents a group -E-F and R^d in formula V represents a group A; whereas a 5-substituted-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl compound is produced by the process of this invention when R^c represents a group A and R^d represents a group -E-F. A preferred reactive derivative of the acid $\text{R}^c\text{-CO}_2\text{H}$ in this case is a $\text{C}_1\text{-}_4$ alkyl ester. The reaction is conveniently carried out in tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide or a lower alkanol such as ethanol, propanol or isopropanol at about 20° to 100°C for about 1 to 6 hours.

When the compound of formula VI is employed, the product of the process of this invention is a 1,3,4-oxadiazole. In this case, a preferred reactive derivative of the acid $\text{R}^c\text{-CO}_2\text{H}$ is an orthoester of formula $\text{R}^c\text{-C(OR}^p)_3$ where R^p represents $\text{C}_1\text{-}_3$ alkyl. The process is conveniently effected by heating the hydrazide VI with the orthoester in a solvent such as methanol at reflux temperature for about 2 to 8 hours. An intermediate of formula $\text{R}^d\text{.CO.NH.N=C(R}^c\text{)OR}^p$ may be isolated by evaporation of the solvent. The intermediate is then treated with a strong base such as potassium t-butoxide or 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]-undec-7-ene, in butanol for about 10 to 24 hours at about 90° to 150°C .

The 1,2,4-thiadiazoles of formula I may be prepared by a process which comprises the cyclisation of a compound of formula VIII:



(VIII)

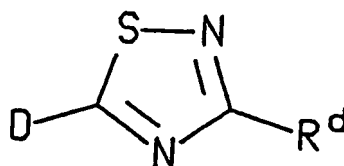
wherein R^e and R^d are as defined above, and R^e is hydrogen or an alkyl group.

Cyclisation of compound VIII can be achieved using an aminating agent such as hydroxylamine-O-sulphonic acid in a lower alkanol such as methanol, ethanol or propanol, in the presence of pyridine, at between -20°C and 50°C for about 1-6 hours.

Cyclisation of compounds of formula VIII in which R^e is hydrogen may also be achieved by use of an oxidising agent such as bromine, iodine, hydrogen peroxide or nitric acid.

The 1,2,4-thiadiazoles may also be prepared by cycloaddition of a nitrile sulphide $\text{R}^c\text{-C}\equiv\text{N}^+\text{-S}^-$ with a nitrile of formula R^dCN where R^c and R^d are as defined above.

A further method for the preparation of the 1,2,4-thiadiazoles of this invention comprises reaction of a thiadiazole of formula IX:



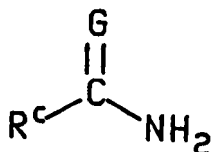
(IX)

with a reagent which provides an anion R^e , where R^c and R^d are as previously defined and D represents halogen. Compound IX may be prepared by the general method described in Chem. Ber., 1957, 90, 182.

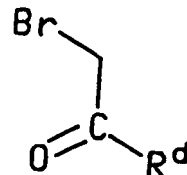
Reagents which may provide the anion R^e include Grignard reagents R^eMgHal (where Hal = halogen); organocuprate reagents such as LiR^e_2Cu ; organolithium reagents R^eLi ; or compounds which stabilise the anion by means of an adjacent activating group such as an ester or enolisable ketone function. In this case, the adjacent ester or ketone function may be retained after the process is complete, or may be removed. For example, an ester moiety may be hydrolysed and decarboxylated.

1,3,4-Thiadiazoles of this invention may be prepared by dehydration of a thiosemicarbazide of formula $\text{R}^c\text{CSNHNHCONR}^e\text{R}^f$, where R^c is as defined above and R^e and R^f are hydrogen or an alkyl group, with a dehydrating agent such as sulphuric acid, polyphosphoric acid or methanesulphonic acid; followed by attachment of the R^d group by conventional means.

The oxazoles and thiazoles of this invention may be prepared by reaction of an amide or thioamide of formula X with a α -haloketone of formula XI:



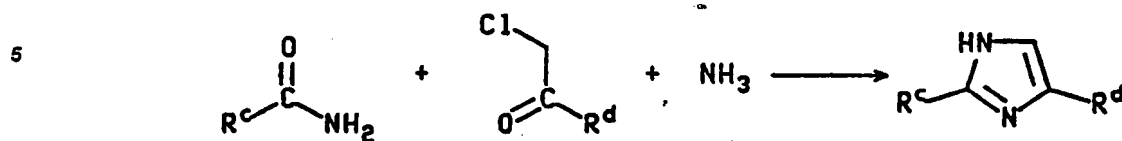
(X)



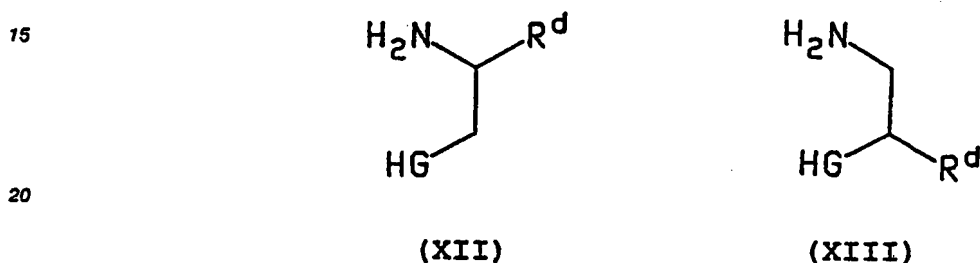
(XI)

wherein G is oxygen or sulphur, and R^c and R^d are as defined above. The conditions for this reaction are as described in Synthesis, 1975, 389.

The imidazoles of this invention may be prepared by conventional methods, such as are described in Advances in Heterocyclic Chemistry, 1970, 12, 104. One suitable process may be illustrated as follows:



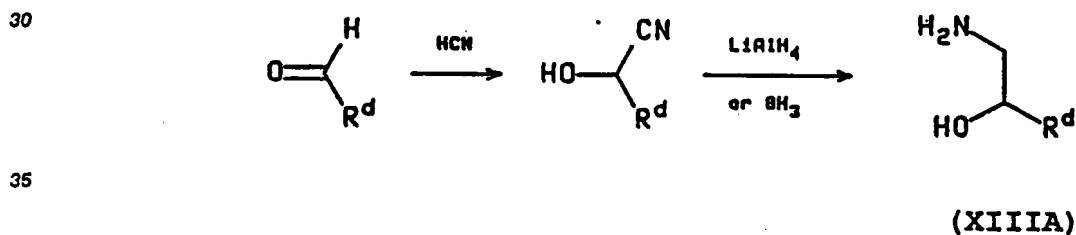
10 The oxazoline and thiazoline compounds of this invention may be prepared by a process which comprises reacting a reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula $\text{R}^c\text{-CO}_2\text{H}$ with a compound either of formula XII or of formula XIII or a salt thereof:



25 wherein G is oxygen or sulphur and R^c and R^d are as defined above.

The process is conveniently effected by condensation of the starting materials in the presence of thionyl chloride, phosphorus oxychloride or triphenylphosphine/diethyl azodicarboxylate.

The intermediate of formula XIII may be prepared by conventional methods, for example:



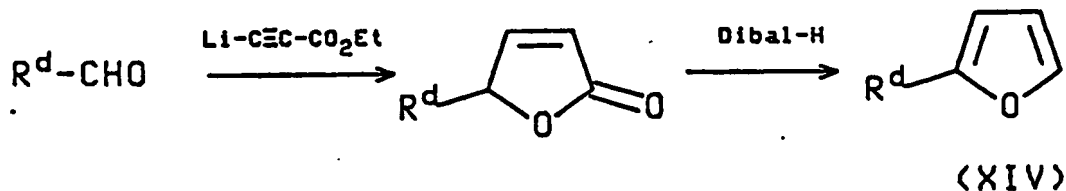
40 The isoxazoline compounds of this invention may be prepared by reacting a nitrile oxide with an appropriate alkene.

The furans according to the invention may, for example, be prepared by reacting a compound of formula XIV:



55 with a reagent which provides an anion R^c , wherein R^c and R^d are as previously defined; and wherein the reagent which may provide the anion R^c is suitably as described with reference to formula IX above.

The intermediate of formula XIV may be prepared by conventional methods, for example:



The azacyclic or azabicyclic moiety may be introduced into the molecules concerned by methods known from the art, in particular by methods analogous to those described in EP-A-0239309.

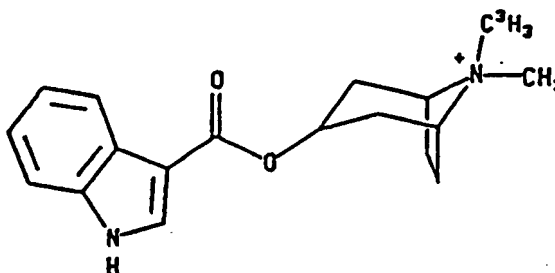
After any of the above described processes is complete, one substituent can be converted to another. For example an amino group may be converted to chloro, or hydrazo, $-NHNH_2$, via the intermediacy of diazonium, $-N_2$. Similarly, a chloro substituent may be converted to methoxy by reaction with a nucleophile such as methoxide; alkoxycarbonyl groups may be converted, via carboxy, to an amino substituent, $-NH_2$; and methoxy may be converted to hydroxy by treatment with concentrated hydrobromic acid.

In any of the above reactions it may be necessary and/or desirable to protect any sensitive groups in the compounds. For example, if R^c and/or R^d include amino, carboxy, keto, hydroxy or thiol groups, these may be protected in conventional manner. Thus, suitable protecting groups for hydroxy groups include silyl groups such as trimethylsilyl or t-butyldimethylsilyl, and etherifying groups such as tetrahydropyranyl; and for amino groups include benzyloxycarbonyl and t-butoxycarbonyl. Keto groups may be protected in the form of a ketal. Carboxy groups are preferably protected in a reduced form such as in the form of their corresponding protected alcohols, which may be subsequently oxidised to give the desired carboxy group. Thiol groups may be protected by disulphide formation, either with the thiol itself or with another thiol to form a mixed disulphide. The protecting groups may be removed at any convenient stage in the synthesis of the desired compound according to conventional techniques.

The following Examples illustrate the preparation of compounds according to the invention.

The compounds according to the present invention may be evaluated for their anti-emetic activity in the von Bezold-Jarisch test (Nature, 1985, 316, 126), or in animal models of anxiety (see, for example, Br. J. Pharmac., 1988, 93, 985), schizophrenia (see, for example, Eur. J. Pharmac., 1987, 138, 303) or cognition (passive avoidance assay).

Certain of the compounds of the present invention act on $5-HT_3$ receptors and this may account, in whole or in part, for the pharmacological activity of these compounds. The $5-HT_3$ binding of the compounds of the invention was assayed using the protocol described in the literature (Nature, 1987, 330, 716) but instead of using the compound GR-65630 described therein, the 3H methylated quaternary derivative of formula XV was employed as a radioligand:



(XV)

The compounds of each of the Examples demonstrate an affinity for the $5-HT_3$ receptor with a K_d (dissociation constant for the displacement of radioligand) better than 100 nM.

EXAMPLE 1

3[3-(Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo [2.2.2] octane hydrogen oxalatea) [1-Methylindol-3-yl] amide oxime

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A solution of hydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.3 g), potassium carbonate (3.5 g), and 1-methylindole-3-nitrile (2 g) in absolute ethanol (100ml) was heated under reflux for eight hours. The solvent was removed at reduced pressure and the residue extracted with ether (2 x 100 ml), the solvent evaporated at reduced pressure and the residue purified by recrystallisation from CH₂Cl₂/Acetone to afford [1-methylindol-3-yl] amide oxime as a white solid (2.9 g). mp 110 °C (dec) ; δ_H (360 MHz, CDCl₃), 3.6(3H, s, NMe), 6.8 - 7.0 (2m, m, H-5, H-6), 7.11 (1H, d, J=8, H-7), 7.20 (1H, s, H-2), 7.90 (1H, d, J=8, H-4); M/Z 173 (25%), 158 (40), 156 (100), 114 (20).

15 b) 3[3(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

The 1-methylindol-3-yl amide oxime (0.94 g) was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (30 ml) to which was added 4A molecular sieves (2 g). After stirring for 15 mins sodium hydride (0.18 g of 80% dispersion in oil) was added and the mixture stirred for a further 15 mins before the addition of 3-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (1.2 g). The resulting mixture was then warmed to 100 °C for 1 h then cooled to room temperature filtered and the solvent evaporated. The residue was then purified by chromatography on alumina using CH₂Cl₂/MeOH as eluant, to afford a colourless oil (0.9 g). This was further purified by treatment with a solution of oxalic acid in ether to afford the title compound mp 163 °C (Acetone); (Found: C, 55.34; H, 5.17; N, 12.08; C₂₀H₂₂N₄O₅ requires C, 55.74; H, 5.34; N, 12.38%; δ_H (360 MHz, D₂O) 1.78 - 2.08 (6H, m, 3 x CH₂), 2.55 (1H, bm, CH), 3.29 - 3.39 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂N), 3.66 - 3.88 (3H, m, CH₂N, -CH-), 3.88 (3H, s, NMe), 7.25 - 7.33 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.58 (1H, d, J=8, H-7), 8.05 (1H, d, J=8, H-4), 8.16 (1H, s, H-2) ; M/Z 308 (M⁺ free base 1.5%) 225 (10), 154 (45), 91 (100).

30

EXAMPLE 22[3(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

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This was prepared from 1-methylindol-3-yl amide oxime (0.94 g) and 2-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (1.2 g) using method described in example 1. This was purified by chromatography on silica eluting with (99:1 → 90:10) CH₂Cl₂/Acetone to afford a colourless oil (1.0 g). Preparation of the oxalate as described previously gave the title compound as white crystals mp 210 °C; Found C, 59.89; H, 5.65; N, 13.90 C₂₀H₂₂N₄O₅ requires C, 60.02; H, 5.59; N, 13.99%; δ_H (360 MHz, D₂O) 1.8 - 2.6 (9H, m, 3 x CH₂), 2.5 (1H, bs, CH), 3.27 - 3.47 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂N), 3.90 (3H, s, NMe), 5.12 (1H, t, J=8, CHN), 7.26 - 7.36 (2H, m, H-5, H-6) 7.60 (1H, d, J=8, H-7), 8.04 (1H, d, J=8, H-4), 8.15 (1H, s, H-2) ; M/Z 308 (M⁺ free base, 25%) 156 (30), 155 (100).

45

EXAMPLE 350 1-Methyl-3-[5-dimethylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole hydrochloride

[1-Methylindol-3-yl]amide oxime (0.9 g,) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (30 mins) containing 4A molecular sieves (2 g) under nitrogen. After stirring for 30 mins sodium hydride (0.10 g of a 80% dispersion in oil) was added and the mixture stirred for a further 15 mins. A solution of ethyl N,N dimethylamino glycine (1.31 g,) in THF (10 ml) was added and the mixture heated at reflux for one hour. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, filtered and the solvent evaporated at reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica using CH₂Cl₂/Acetone as eluant to afford a colourless oil (0.7 g).

A sample (300 mg) was dissolved in ether (5ml) and a solution of ethanolic HCl added, the precipitate was recrystallised from acetone to afford the title compound as a pale cream solid mp 197 °C;

Found C, 57.39; H, 5.84; N, 19.00

C₁₄H₁₇N₄O₄Cl requires C, 57.43; H, 5.85; N, 19.14%; δ_H (360MHz) 3.13 (6H, s, NMe₂), 3.75 (3H, s, NMe)

4.79 (2H, s, CH₂N), 7.29 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.47 (1H, d, J=8, H-7) 7.73 (1H, s, H-2), 7.87 (1H, d, J=8, H-4);
M/Z 256 (60%), 213 (55), 171 (100), 156 (70).

EXAMPLE 4

[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]methyltrimethylammonium iodide

Methyl iodide (164 mg.) was added to a stirred solution of 1-methyl-3[3-(5-dimethylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)]indole (300 mg.) in an anhydrous acetone (30 ml). After stirring at room temperature for two hours the precipitate was isolated by filtration and dried to afford the title compound as a white solid (400 mg.) mp 218 °C (dec); Found C, 45.15; H, 4.77; N, 13.89 C₁₅H₁₉N₄OI requires C, 45.24; H, 4.80; N, 14.06%; δ_H (360 MHz) 3.32 (9H, s, N⁺Me₃), 3.93 (3H, s, NMe), 5.11 (3H, s, CH₂N⁺), 7.25 - 7.35 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.80 (1H, d, J=8, H-7), 8.03 (1H, d, J=8, H-4), 8.22 (1H, s, H-2); M/Z 259 (20%), 216 (30), 214 (55), 139 (100).

EXAMPLE 5

1-methyl-4[3-(Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine hydrogen oxalate

This was prepared from 1-methylindol-3-yl amide oxime (0.94g) and methyl 1-methylpiperidine-4-carboxylate (2g) using the method described in Example 3. This was purified on alumina eluting with (2:1->1:1) CH₂Cl₂/Ethyl acetate to afford a colourless oil (1.4g). Preparation of the oxalate as described previously gave the title compound as white crystals, mp 198 °C; Found C, 59.00; H, 5.63; N, 14.35 C₁₉H₂₂N₄O₅ requires C, 59.00; H, 5.74; N, 14.49%; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO) 2.08-2.33 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂), 2.76 (3H, s, Me), 3.11 (2H, brt, J=11, CH₂N), 3.37-3.50 (3H, m, -CH₂N & -CH), 3.89 (3H, s, NMe), 7.22-7.32 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.57 (1H, d, J=6, H-7), 8.03 (1H, d, J=6, H-4), 8.14 (1H, s, H-2); M/Z 296 (M⁺ free base, 10%), 196(10), 152(35), 123(50), 96(100), 90(70).

EXAMPLE 6

1,1-Dimethyl-4-[3-(methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidinium iodide

Methyl iodide (200mg) was added to a stirred solution of 1-methyl-4-[3-(methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine (300mg) in anhydrous acetone (20ml) at room temperature. After stirring at room temperature for two hours the precipitate was isolated by filtration and dried to afford the title compound (300mg), mp 248 °C; Found C, 49.00; H, 5.30; N, 12.51 C₁₈H₂₃N₄OI requires C, 49.32; H, 5.29; N, 12.78%; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO) 2.25-2.35 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂), 3.14 (3H, s, NMe), 3.18 (3H, s, NMe), 3.41 (1H, m, CH), 3.48-3.56 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂N), 3.90 (3H, s, NMe), 7.22-7.33 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.58 (1H, d, J=7, H-7), 8.05 (1H, d, J=7, H-4), 8.12 (1H, s, H-2); M/Z (no M⁺), 199(90), 140(100), 96(90).

EXAMPLE 7

1-Methyl-3-[3-(methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine hydrogen oxalate

This was prepared from 1-methylindol-3-yl amide oxime (0.94g) and methyl 1-methylpiperidine-3-carboxylate (2g) using the method described in Example 3. This was purified on alumina eluting with (2:1-
 5 >1:1) CH₂Cl₂/Ethyl acetate to afford a colourless oil (1.4g). Preparation of the oxalate as described previously gave the title compound as white crystals, mp 217 °C; Found C, 60.10; H, 5.59; N, 14.15, C₁₉H₂₂N₄O₅ requires C, 59.06; H, 5.74; N, 14.49%; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO) 1.74-2.41 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂), 2.77 (3H, s, Me), 2.89 (1H, m, CH), 3.19-3.74 (4H, m, CH), 3.19-3.74 (4H, m, CH₂N), 3.90 (3H, s, NMe), 7.22-7.33 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.57 (1H, d, J=7, H-7), 8.04 (1H, d, J=7, H-4), 8.19 (1H, s, H-2); M/Z 296 (M⁺, free base,
 10 10%), 185(60), 168(32), 142(45), 126(90), 82(100).

EXAMPLE 81,1-Dimethyl-3-[3-(Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidinium iodide

Methyl iodide (200mg) was added to a stirred solution of 1-methyl-3-[3-(methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine (300mg) in anhydrous acetone (20ml) at room temperature. After stirring at room
 20 temperature for two hours the precipitate was isolated by filtration and dried to afford the title compound (300mg), mp 250 °C; Found C, 49.09; H, 5.34; N, 12.43, C₁₈H₂₃N₄OI requires C, 49.32; H, 5.29; N, 12.78%; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO), 1.68-2.18 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂), 3.21 (3H, s, NMe), 3.24 (3H, s, NMe), 3.40-4.06 (5H, m, 2 x CH₂, CH), 3.94 (3H, s, NMe), 7.23-7.34 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.58 (1H, d, J=7, H-7), 8.04 (1H, d, J=7, H-4),
 25 8.10 (1H, s, H-2), M/Z 311(100), 185(30), 93(59).

EXAMPLE 91-Methyl-3-[5-aminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl] indole hydrogen trifluoroacetate35 a) 1-Methyl-3-[5-t-butoxycarbonylaminoethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole

This was prepared from 1-methylindol-3-yl amide oxime (0.94g) and ethyl N-t-butoxycarbonyl glycinate (2g) using the method described in Example 3. This was purified on silica eluting with CH₂Cl₂ to afford a
 40 pale yellow solid (1.4g) mp 150 °C; δ_H (360MHz, CDCl₃) 1.48 (9H, s, t-Bu), 3.83 (3H, s, NMe), 4.6 (2H, brs, CH₂N), 5.28 (1H, brs, NH), 7.25-7.37 (3H, m, H-5, H-6, H-7), 7.76 (1H, s, H-2), 8.20 (1H, d, J=7, H-4); M/Z 328 (M⁺, 60%), 272(40), 228(25), 156(100).

45 b) 1-Methyl-3-[5-aminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole hydrogen trifluoroacetate

1-Methyl-3-[5-t-butoxycarbonylaminoethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole (300mg) was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (10ml) at 0 °C, trifluoroacetic acid (0.5ml) was then added and the reaction mixture allowed to warm
 50 to room temperature over 30 mins. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for twelve hours before evaporation at reduced pressure. The residue was recrystallised from cold CH₂Cl₂ to afford white crystals (150mg) mp 178 °C;
 Found C, 48.74; H, 3.74; N, 15.97
 C₁₄H₁₃N₄O₃F₃ requires C, 49.13; H, 3.83; N, 16.37%; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO), 3.92 (3H, s, NMe), 4.58 (2H, s, CH₂N), 7.24-7.35 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.60 (1H, d, J=7, H-4), 8.07 (1H, d, J=7, H-7), 8.10 (1H, s, H-2); M/Z 228 (M⁺, free base 70%), 171(100), 156(80).

EXAMPLE 10

1-Methyl-3-[5-methylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole hydrogen trifluoroacetatea) 1-Methyl-3-[5-t-butoxycarbonyl-N-methylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole

5 1-Methyl-3-[5-t-butoxycarbonylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole (300mg) was dissolved in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (10ml) and cooled to 0 °C under nitrogen. Sodium hydride (0.1g) was added followed by methyl iodide (0.2ml) and the mixture allowed to warm to room temperature. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 mins then diluted with ether (20ml) and washed with water (10ml), dried (Na₂SO₄)
 10 and the solvent evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica eluting with CH₂Cl₂ to afford a colourless oil (300mg); δ_H (360MHz, CDCl₃), 1.43 (9H, brs, t-But), 3.09 (3H, brs, CH₃), 3.86 (3H, s, NMe), 4.6 (2H, brs, CH₂N), 7.25-7.39 (3H, m, H-5, H-6, H-7), 7.79 (1H, s, H-2), 8.22 (1H, d, J = 7, H-4).

b) 1-Methyl-3-[5-methylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole hydrogen trifluoroacetate

Using the procedure described in Example 7, 1-methyl-3[5-t-butoxycarbonyl-N-methylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole (300mg) afforded the title compound as white crystals (170mg) mp 195 °C; Found C, 50.37; H, 4.28; N, 15.37
 20 C₁₅H₁₅F₃N₄O₃ requires C, 50.56; H, 4.24; N, 15.72%; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO) 2.80 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.92 (3H, s, NMe), 4.71 (2H, s, CH₂), 7.25-7.35 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.60 (1H, d, J = 7, H-7), 8.07 (1H, d, J = 7, H-4), 8.13 (1H, s, H-2); M/Z 242 (M⁺, free base, 90%), 171(100), 156(80).

EXAMPLE 111-Methyl-3-[5-dimethylaminoethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole hydrogen oxalate hydrate

30 This was prepared from 1-methylindol-3-yl amide oxime (0.94g) and methyl 3-dimethylaminopropanoate (1.31g) using the method described in Example 3. This was purified on alumina eluting with (1:0-7:3) CH₂Cl₂/Ethyl acetate to afford a pale yellow oil (0.7g). Preparation of the oxalate as described previously gave the title compound as white crystals, mp 186 °C; Found C, 56.22; H, 5.63; N, 15.18 C₁₇H₂₀N₄O₅,
 35 0.2H₂O requires C, 56.66; H, 5.59; N, 15.54%; δ_H (360MHz, dmso), 2.78 (6H, s, 2 x NCH₃), 3.44-3.52 (2H, m, CH₂), 3.91 (3H, s, NMe), 7.23-7.34 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.58 (2H, d, J = 8Hz, H-7), 8.05 (1H, d, J = 8Hz, H-4), 8.14 (1H, s, H-2); m/z 270 (M⁺, free base, 20%) 182 (35), 156 (100), 155 (45), 129 (35).

EXAMPLE 123-[3-(Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane hydrogen oxalate

45 This was prepared from 1-methylindol-3-yl amide oxime (0.94g) and 3-carbomethoxy-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane (0.7g) using the method described in Example 3. This was purified on alumina eluting with (99: 1-95:5) CH₂Cl₂/methanol to afford a colourless oil (0.4g). Preparation of the oxalate as described previously gave the title compound as white crystals, mp 209 °C; Found C, 60.57; H, 5.95; N,
 50 12.70 C₂₁H₂₄N₄O₅ requires C, 60.61; H, 6.18; N, 12.72%; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO), 2.1-2.45 (8H, m, 4 x CH₂), 2.80 (3H, s, NMe), 3.44 (1H, m, CH), 3.74 (3H, s, NMe), 4.07 (2H, m, 2 x CHN), 7.27-7.38 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.46 (1H, d, J = 8Hz, H-7), 7.60 (1H, s, H-2), 7.28 (1H, d, J = 8Hz, H-4); m/z 156 (35), 124 (20), 82 (50), 28 (100).

EXAMPLE 13

3-[3-Methylindol-3-yl)-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine hydrogen trifluoroacetatea) 3-[3-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]- 1-t-butoxycarbonyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine

6

This was prepared from 1-methylindol-3-yl amide oxime (0.94g) and methyl 1-t-butoxycarbonyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (1.2g) using the method described in Example 3. This was purified by recrystallisation from CHCl_3 to afford a pale yellow solid (600mg) mp 170°C ; δ_{H} (CDCl_3 , (360MHz), 1.51 (9H, s, t-Bu), 2.44 (2H, m, CH_2), 3.6 (2H, m, CN_2N), 3.87 (3H, s, NMe), 4.43 (2H, m, CH_2N), 7.2 (1H, brs, NH), 7.26-7.39 (4H, m, H-5, H-6, h-7 = CH-), 7.82 (1H, s, H-2), 8.24 (1H, d, J 8, H-4); m/z 367 (10), 311 (60), 158 (25), 115 (35), 73 (100).

10

b) 3-[3-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine hydrogen trifluoroacetate

15

Trifluoroacetic acid (1ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 3-[3-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)-1-t-butoxycarbonyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine (0.3g) in dichloromethane (10ml). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 hr then the solvent removed at reduced pressure. The residue was recrystallised from chloroform to afford the title compound (200mg) as a pale yellow solid, mp 167°C ; Found C, 54.51; H, 4.10; N, 14.31; $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$ requires C, 54.82, H, 4.34; N, 14.21%; δ_{H} - (360MHz, DMSO) 2.63 (2H, m, CH_2), 3.32 (2H, m, CH_2N), 3.91 (3H, s, NMe), 4.14 (2H, m, CH_2N), 7.21-7.34 (3H, m, H-5, H-6, =CH-), 7.58 (1H, d, J 8Hz, H-7), 8.05 (1H, d, J = 8Hz, H-5), 8.15 (1H, s, H-2); m/z 280 (M^+ , free base, 100%), 171 (45), 156 (40), 81 (50), 59 (75).

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EXAMPLE 143-[3-(Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine hydrogen oxalate

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This was prepared from 1-methylindol-3-yl amide oxime (0.94g) and ethyl 1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (1.2g) using the procedure described in Example 3. This was purified on alumina eluting with CH_2Cl_2 to afford a white solid (300mg) mp 120°C . Preparation of the oxalate as described previously gave the title compound as a white solid (300mg) mp 232°C ; Found C, 59.26; H, 5.05; N, 14.50 $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_5$ requires C, 59.36; H, 5.24, N, 14.57%; δ_{H} (360MHz, DMSO) 2.69 (2H, m, CH_2), 2.88 (3H, s, NMe), 3.28 (2H, m, CH_2N), 3.90 (3H, m, NCH_3), 4.12 (2H, m, CH_2N), 7.23-7.34 (3H, m, H-5, H-6, =CH-), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 8 Hz, H-7), 8.06 (1H, d, J = 8Hz, H-4), 8.14 (1H, s, H-2), m/z 294 (M^+ , free base, 70%), 251 (100), 156 (50), 81 (30).

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EXAMPLE 15

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3-[5-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane sesqui hydrogen oxalate

The azabicyclo[2.2.2]octan-3-yl-carboxamide oxime (prepared using the method described in EP 239309A) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (30ml) and anhydrous DMF (20ml) to which was added 4A molecular sieves (0.8g). After stirring for 15 mins sodium hydride (0.14g of 80% dispersion in oil) was added and the mixture stirred for a further 15 mins before the addition of 1-methylindol-3-yl carboxylate methyl ester (1.7g). The resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 4 hours, then cooled, filtered through hyflo and the solvent evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on alumina using MeOH/EtOAc as eluant to give a white solid (0.5g). The title compound was isolated by dissolution of the free base (150mg) in hot MeOH (4ml) followed by treatment with a solution of oxalic acid in ether whereupon the salt crystallised on standing as a white crystalline solid (140mg) mp $170-171^\circ\text{C}$ (MeOH).

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55

Found: C, 56.89; H, 5.30; N, 12.76;

$\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_4\text{O}_7$ requires C, 56.88, H, 5.23; N, 12.63%; δ_{H} (360MHz, DMSO- d_6) 1.1-2.1 (4H, m, 2 x CH_2), 2.50

(1H, m, CH), 3.2-3.4 (4H, brm, 2 x CH₂N), 3.60-3.75 (3H, m, CH₂N-CH-), 3.94 (3H, s, NMe), 7.31-7.39 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.84 (1H, d, J = 7Hz, H-7), 8.11 (1H, dd, J = 7Hz, H-4), 8.44 (1H, s, H-2); m/z (Cl⁺) 308 (M⁺, free base, 30%) 225 (40), 158 (100), 130 (15).

6

EXAMPLE 1610 3-[3-(5-Fluoro-1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalatea) [5-Fluoro-1-methylindol-3-yl]amide oxime

15 This was prepared from 3-cyano-5-fluoro-1-methylindole (3g), hydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.8g) and potassium carbonate (4.7g) using the method described in Example 1. Recrystallisation from CH₂Cl₂/acetone afforded [5-fluoro-1-methylindol-3-yl]amide oxime as a pale yellow solid (1g); m.p. 115°C; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO-d₆) 3.39 (3H, s, NMe), 6.55 (1H, m, H-6), 6.82 (1H, m, H-4), 7.28 (1H, s, H-2), 7.39 (1H, d, J = 7Hz, H-7); m/z 207 (M⁺, 55%), 191 (45), 175 (100), 160 (43), 147 (65).

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b) 3-[(5-Fluoro-1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane dihydrogen oxalate

25 This was prepared from [5-fluoro-1-methylindol-3-yl]amide oxime (0.7g) and 3-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (1.1g) using the method described in Example 1. This was purified on alumina eluting with (99:1 → 90:10) CH₂Cl₂/MeOH to afford a colourless oil (400mg). Preparation of the oxalate as described previously gave the title compound as white crystals, m.p. 188°C. Found: C, 54.23; H, 4.92; N, 11.63. C₂₀H₂₀FN₄O₅ requires C, 53.99; H, 4.53; N, 11.45%; δ_H (360MHz, D₂O) 1.9 - 2.2 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂), 2.67 (1H, brs, CH), 3.35 - 3.52 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂N), 3.67 (3H, s, NMe), 3.80 - 3.91 (3H, m, CH₂N, CH), 7.02 (1H, m, H-6), 7.29 - 7.34 (2H, m, H-4, H-7), 7.59 (1H, s, H-2); m/z No M⁺, 233(20%), 167(50), 91(100).

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EXAMPLE 17

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3-[4-(5-Cyanoindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine hydrogen oxalate40 a) 3-[2-(5-Cyanoindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridine

A solution of thionicotinamide (2.76g), and 3-bromoacetyl-5-cyanoindole (5.26g) in dimethylformamide (100ml) were heated at reflux under nitrogen for 3 hours. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into 3% aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (300ml). The product was then isolated by filtration, washed with water (100ml) and dried over P₂O₅ to afford a buff coloured solid (4.8g), m.p. 240°C; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO-d₆) 7.55-7.64 (3H, m, H-6, H-7, β-pyr), 8.13 (1H, s, CH), 8.22 (1H, d, J = 1Hz, H-4), 8.43 (1H, m, γ-pyr), 8.74 (2H, m, α-pyr), 9.27 (1H, s, H-2), 12.03 (1H, s, NH); m/z 302 (M⁺, 35%), 256 (15), 198 (30).

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b) 3-[4-(5-Cyanoindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]-1-methyl pyridinium iodide

A solution of 3-[2-(5-cyanoindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridine (2g) and methyl iodide (1ml) in dry acetone (200ml) was heated at reflux for 11 hours; the mixture was then cooled and the product isolated by filtration, m.p. 285°C (dec); δ_H (360MHz, DMSO-d₆) 4.51 (3H, s, Me), 7.49-7.59 (2H, m, H-6, H-7), 8.27-8.33 (2H, 2 x d, J = 6, α-pyr, γ-pyr), 9.70 (1H, s, α-pyr), 12.09 (1H, s, NH); m/z 428 (10%), 308 (100), 225 (63), 142 (70).

55

c) 3-[4-(5-Cyanoindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine hydrogen oxalate

To a suspension of 3-[4-(5-cyanoindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]-1-methylpyridinium iodide (2.3g) in ethanol (50ml) and water (5ml) was added sodium borohydride (300mg) with vigorous stirring. After complete reaction (2 hours) 5N hydrochloric acid was added dropwise to decompose excess NaBH₄. The solution was then poured into 5% aqueous sodium bicarbonate (200ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 100ml), dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on alumina eluting with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (100%→90:10) to afford a pale yellow solid, (1.0g) m.p. 217 °C. This was further purified by preparation of the oxalate to yield the title compound (1.1g), m.p. 247 °C. Found: C, 58.19; H, 4.53; N, 13.39; C₂₂H₁₂N₄O₄S requires C, 58.52; H, 4.42; N, 13.65%; δ_H (360MHz, D₂O) 2.59 (2H, m, CH₂), 2.87 (3H, s, NMe), 3.22 (2H, brs, CH₂N), 4.17 (2H, m, = CCH₂N), 6.61 (1H, bs, =CH), 7.50-7.65 (2H, m, H-6, H-7), 7.95 (1H, s, CH), 8.10 (1H, d, J = 1Hz, H-2), 8.62 (1H, s, H-4), 12.06 (1H, brs, NH); m/z 320 (M⁺ free base, 100%), 276 (55) 198 (50), 109 (35).

EXAMPLE 18

20 3-[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-aza-2-methoxybicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen sesqui oxalate

This was prepared from [1-methylindol-3-yl]amide oxime (0.94g) and 3-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2] oct-2-ene (1.2g) using the method described in Example 3. This was purified on alumina eluting with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (100%→99:1) to afford a waxy solid m.p. 92-95 °C. This was further purified by preparation of the oxalate salt as described previously to afford a white solid, m.p. 182 °C. Found: C, 55.82; H, 5.39; N, 11.76, C₂₂H₂₅N₄O₈ requires C, 55.81; H, 5.32; N, 11.83%; δ_H (360MHz, D₂O), 1.85-2.22 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂) 2.68 (1H, brs, CH), 3.34 (1H, m, CH), 3.47-3.63 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂N), 3.71 (3H, s, OMe), 3.83 (3H, s, NMe), 6.37 (1H, d, J = 5.2Hz, CHOMe), 7.31-7.40 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.55 (1H, d, J = 6Hz, H-7), 7.88 (1H, s, H-2), 7.97 (1H, d, J = 6Hz, H-4); m/z 338 (M⁺ free base, 100%), 251 (53) 156 (50).

EXAMPLE 19

35 1-Methyl-3-[5-(2-aminoethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole hydrogen oxalate

40 a) 2[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]ethene

[Methylindol-3-yl]amide oxime (1.89g) and powdered molecular sieves (2g, 4A) were suspended in anhydrous THF (40ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere and were stirred for 30 min. NaH (0.52g, 50% dispersion in oil) was added and the mixture was heated to 60 °C for 15 min. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and methyl acrylate (0.9ml) added. This was stirred for 15 min at room temperature and then heated at reflux for 1 hour. The reaction was quenched with water and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and water. The organic layer was separated, dried (Na₂SO₄) and the solvent evaporated at reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica using CH₂Cl₂ as eluant. This afforded a colourless oil which solidified upon refrigeration to a white crystalline material, 0.5g, m.p. 54-55 °C (ether/hexane). Found: C, 69.32; H, 5.04; N, 18.63; C₁₃H₁₁N₃O requires C, 69.32; H, 4.92; N, 18.65%; δ_H (360MHz, CDCl₃) 3.79 (3H, s, NCH₃), 5.92 (1H, dd, J = 11.0, 0.7Hz, CH=CH₂), 6.54 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 0.7Hz, CH=CH₂), 6.74 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 11.0Hz CH=CH₂), 7.26-7.34 (3H, m, H-5, H-7, ArH), 7.76 (1H, s, ArH, H-2), 8.23-8.26 (1H, m, ArH, H-4); m/z 225 (M⁺, 100%), 172 (40), 156 (40).

55 b) 1-Methyl-3-[5-(2-aminoethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole hydrogen oxalate

2[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]ethene (0.34g) was dissolved in ethanol (50ml). THF (10ml).

The solution was cooled to 0 °C and ammonia bubbled through the solution for 2 h. The flask was sealed securely at 0 °C and was allowed to stir at room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield a pale yellow oil, 0.36g. The crude oil was purified by treatment with one equivalent of oxalic acid in dichloromethane which precipitated the monooxalate as a white powder which was recrystallised from methanol/acetone, m.p. 140-141 °C. Found: C, 54.12; H, 5.09; N, 17.06; C₁₅H₁₆N₄O₅ requires C, 54.22; H, 4.85; N, 16.86%; δ_H (360MHz, D₂O). 3.44 (2H, t, J = 7Hz, CH₂CH₂NH₂), 3.59 (2H, t, J = 7Hz, CH₂NH₂), 3.88 (3H, s, CH₃), 7.36 (1H, dt, J = 7.0, 1.2Hz, ArH), 7.43 (1H, dt, J = 7, 1.2Hz, ArH), 7.59 (1H, d, J = 7.2Hz, H-7), 7.94 (1H, s, H-2), 8.03 (1H, d, J = 8.0Hz H-4); m/z 242 (M⁺ free base, 90%), 212 (50), 171 (100).

EXAMPLE 20

1-Methyl-3-[5-(2-N-methylaminoethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole hydrogen oxalate

This was prepared from 2[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]ethene and gaseous methylamine according to the procedure described in Example 19. This afforded a pale yellow oil. The crude oil was purified, as in Example 1, by treatment with a CH₂Cl₂ solution of oxalic acid, yielding a white microcrystalline powder, m.p. (H₂O) (190 °C, dec); Found: C, 55.57; H, 5.39; N, 16.00; C₁₄H₁₆N₄O. (COOH)₂ requires C, 55.49; H, 5.24; N, 16.18%; δ_H (360MHz, D₂O) 2.87 (3H, s, NHCH₃), 3.35 (2H, t, J = 7.2Hz, CH₂CH₂N), 3.54 (2H, t, J = 7.0Hz, CH₂N), 3.70 (3H, s, NCH₃), 7.28 (1H, dt, J = 6.8, 1.0Hz, ArH), 7.36 (1H, dt, J = 6.8, 1.1Hz, ArH), 7.55 (1H, s, H-2, ArH), 7.79 (1H, d, J = 7.8Hz, H-4); m/z 256 (M⁺ free base, 20%), 156 (90), 91 (100).

EXAMPLE 21

1-Methyl-3-[5-(2-(1-piperidyl)ethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole hydrogen oxalate

2[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl] ethene (0.4g) was partially dissolved in ethanol. Piperidine (2ml) was added to the mixture and this was stirred for 10 minutes. Ethanol was evaporated under reduced pressure and excess piperidine was removed by heating under high vacuum. The residual oil crystallised upon refrigeration. The crude oil was converted to the monooxalate salt by treatment with 1 equivalent of oxalic acid in dichloromethane which afforded a white amorphous powder. This was recrystallised from ethanol yielding the title compound, m.p. 186-188 °C. Found: C, 59.85; H, 6.10; N, 13.95; C₁₈H₂₂N₄O. (COOH)₂ requires C, 59.99; H, 6.04; N, 13.99%; δ_H (360MHz, D₂O) 1.48-2.06 (8H, m, CH₂ pip: NCH₂CH₂ x 2 + NCH₂CH₂CH₂), 3.00-3.08 (2H, m, NCH₂), 3.50 (2H, t, J = 9Hz, CH₂CH₂N), 3.58-3.70 (4H, m, CH₂CH₂N + NCH₂CH₂ pip, overlapping), 3.87 (3H, s, NCH₃), 7.36 (dt, 1H, J = 7.2, 1.1Hz, H-5 or H-6), 7.42 (1H, d, J = 7.2, 1.1Hz, H-5 or H-6), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 8.2Hz, H-7), 7.89 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.00 (1H, d, J = 7.5Hz, H-4); m/z (Cl⁻) 311 (M⁺ + 1, 100%), 226 (30), 157 (70), 98 (90).

EXAMPLE 22

3[3-(1-Methylindol-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

a) [1-Methylindol-2-yl]amide oxime

1-Methylindol-2-nitrile (2.5g) was heated at reflux in ethanol (50ml) with hydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.7g) and potassium carbonate (4.4g) for 3 hours. The solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure and the residue triturated with ice cold water (30ml). The crude produce was collected as an orange solid and dried

in vacuo over P_2O_5 (2.7g). It was found to be contaminated with 1-methylindol-2-amide (20%) but was used without further purification, m.p. 135-139 °C (dec); δ_H (250MHz), DMSO- d_6) 3.90 (3H, s, NCH_3), 5.88 (2H, brs, NH_2), 6.80 (1H, s, H-3), 7.0-7.6 (4H, m, ArH); m/z 189 (M^+ , 8%) 172 (50).

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b) 3-[3-(1-Methylindol-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

This was prepared from [1-methylindol-2-yl]amide oxime (0.85g) and 3-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (1.7g) using the method described in Example 3. This was purified by flash chromatography on silica eluting with $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$ 95:5 to afford a pinkish oil (710mg). This was further purified by formation of the oxalate salt to afford the title compound (0.4g), m.p. 189 °C (dec). Found: C, 60.08; H, 5.63; N, 13.98, $C_{20}H_{22}N_4O_5$ requires C, 60.29; H, 5.57; N, 14.06%; δ_H (360MHz, D_2O) 1.4-1.8 (4H, m, 2 x CH_2), 2.32 (1H, brs, CH), 2.9-3.1 (4H, m, 2 x CH_2N), 3.32-3.37 (2H, m, $CH-CH_2N$), 3.50 (1H, dd, J = 11, 5Hz, CH), 4.13 (3H, s, NMe), 7.14 (1H, dd, J = 8, 8, H-6), 7.32 (1H, m, H-5), 7.33 (1H, s, H-2), 7.39 (1H, d, J = 8, H-7), 7.68 (1H, d, J = 8, H-4); m/z 308 (M^+ free base, 70%), 225 (100), 156 (43).

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EXAMPLE 23

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(1R*,6R*)-6-[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate and (1R*,6S*)-6-[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

25

a) Methyl-2-t-butyloxycarbonyl-2-azabicyclo [2.2.2.]octane-6-carboxylate

Di-t-butyldicarbonate (21.8g), in dry CH_2Cl_2 (50ml) was added dropwise to a stirred, cooled (0 °C) solution of methyl 2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane-6-carboxylate (18.2g), (a mixture of endo and exo isomers, prepared as described in Example 21A, EP 0239309) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (100ml). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours, water (100ml) was added and the mixture was stirred for 15 minutes. The organic layer was separated and washed with 0.5M hydrochloric acid (100ml), water (100ml), saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution (100ml) then dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica by elution with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (60-80) [1:40] to give Isomer A as a colourless oil which crystallised on standing (12.0g), m.p. 44-45 °C. Rf = 0.35 in ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (60-80) [1:1] on silica. Found: C, 62.59; H, 8.55; N, 5.10; $C_{14}H_{23}NO_4$ requires C, 62.43; H, 8.61; N, 5.20%; ν_{max} (film) 1740 and 1695 cm^{-1} (C=O); δ_H (360MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.47 (9H, s, $C(CH_3)_3$); 1.55-2.20 (7H, m, 3 x CH_2 , CH), 2.86-3.00 (1H, m, -CH-), 3.30 (2H, brs, CH_2N), 3.69 and 3.72 (total 3H, 2 x brs, CO_2CH_3 , rotamers), 4.21 and 4.38 (total 1H, 2 x brs, CHN, rotamers). Mixed fractions were collected (1:1 mixture, 4.80g) followed by Isomer B as a colourless oil (6.8g). Rf = 0.32 in ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (60-80) [1:1] on silica; δ_H (360MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.42 and 1.43 (total 9H, 2 x s, $C(CH_3)_3$, rotamers), 1.52-2.20 (7H, m, 3 x CH_2 , CH), 2.83-2.73 (1H, m, -CH-), 3.19-3.25 (1H, m, CHHN), 3.36-3.42 (1H, m, CHHN), 3.66 and 3.69 (total 3H, 2 x s, CO_2CH_3 , rotamers), 4.27-4.30 and 4.36-4.38 (total 1H, 2 x m, CHN, rotamers); m/z 269 (M^+).

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b) (1R*,6R*) 2-t-Butyloxycarbonyl-6-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo [2.2.2.]octane (isomer A) and (1R*,6S*) 2-t-butyloxycarbonyl-6-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo-[2.2.2.]octane (isomer B)

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The [1-methylindol-3-yl]amide oxime (0.99g) was stirred vigorously in anhydrous THF (50ml) for 15 minutes with 4A molecular sieves (0.8g). Sodium hydride (0.24g of 80% dispersion in oil) was added and the mixture stirred for 30 minutes, before the addition of methyl 2-t-butyloxycarbonyl-2-azabicyclo [2.2.2.]octane-6-carboxylate (0.94g) (1:1 mixture of isomers) dissolved in THF (10ml). The resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 20 hours, then cooled to room temperature, filtered through hyflo and the solvent evaporated. The residue was purified and the isomers separated by flash silica chromatography using 3:1 hexane/EtOAc to yield isomer A (0.20g) as a waxy solid and isomer B (0.44g) as a crystalline solid. Isomer A: δ_H (360MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.50 (9H, s, $C(CH_3)_3$), 1.6-2.4 (7H, m, 3 x CH_2 , 1 x CH), 3.43 (2H, brs, CH_2N), 3.6

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(1H, m, -CH-), 3.87 and 3.88 (total 3H, s x 2, NCH₃, rotamers), 4.37 and 4.56 (total 1H, brs x 2, -CHN, rotamers), 7.3-7.4 (3H, m, ArH), 7.80 and 7.83 (total 1H, s x 2, H-2, rotamers), 8.23 (1H, d, J = 7.5Hz, H-4); m/z 408 (M⁺ free base, 66%) 307 (30), 156 (100), 91 (60). Isomer B: m.p. 168-169 °C. Found: C, 67.63; H, 7.02; N, 13.61. C₂₃H₂₈N₄O₃ requires C, 67.63; H, 6.91; N, 13.72%; δ_H (360MHz, CDCl₃) 1.19 and 1.33 (total 9H, s x 2, C(CH₃)₃, rotamers), 1.85-2.45 (7H, m, 3 x CH₂, 1 x CH), 3.3-3.5 (2H, brm, CH₂N), 3.6-3.7 (1H, brm, -CH-), 3.86 (total 3H, s x 2, NCH₃, rotamers), 4.32 and 4.45 (total 1H, brs x 2, -CHN, rotamers), 7.25-7.38 (3H, m, ArH), 7.77 and 7.79 (total 1H, s x 2, H-2, rotamers), 8.23 (1H, dd, J = 7Hz, H-4); m/z 408 (M⁺ free base, 48%) 307 (35), 156 (100), 81 (55).

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c) (1R*,6R*) 6-[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

The above mentioned BOC-protected amine isomer A (0.19g) was dissolved in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ and trifluoroacetic acid (0.70ml) added dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature with stirring for 3 hours, after which time the solvent was evaporated. The residue was dissolved in saturated K₂CO₃ solution (20ml), extracted with CHCl₃ (7 x 15ml), dried over (Na₂SO₄) and solvent evaporated to a glassy solid (0.15g). This was further purified by treatment with a solution of oxalic acid in ether to give a precipitate of the title compound as a white crystalline solid, m.p. 218-220 °C (dec). Found: C, 61.61; H, 6.03; N, 14.67; C₁₈H₂₀N₄O₃ · $\frac{3}{2}$ (COOH)₂ · $\frac{1}{2}$ H₂O requires C, 61.57; H, 5.83; N, 14.73%; δ_H (360MHz, CF₃COOD) 1.6-2.3 (7H, m, 3 x CH₂, CH), 3.34 (2H, brs, CH₂N), 3.56 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.89 (1H, s, -CH-), 4.0 (1H, brt, CHN), 6.95-7.15 (3H, m, ArH), 7.54 (1H, s, H-2), 7.65 (1H, d, J = 7.5Hz, H-4); m/z 308 (M⁺ free base, 5%) 156 (100), 82 (100).

25 d) (1R*,6S*) 6-[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate hemi hydrate

The free base of the title compound was prepared as in Example 23C from the above mentioned BOC-protected amine isomer B (0.42g) to yield a buff-coloured solid (0.33g). The oxalate salt was prepared from 0.10g as described in Example 23C above to give a white crystalline solid, m.p. 145-146 °C (dec). Found: C, 59.09; H, 5.74; N, 13.47; C₁₈H₂₀N₄O₃ · (COOH)₂ · $\frac{1}{2}$ H₂O requires C, 58.96; H, 5.69; N, 13.75%; δ_H (360MHz, D₂O) 1.8-2.2 (6H, m, 3 x CH₂), 2.4 (1H, brt, CH), 3.32 (2H, s, CH₂N), 3.6 (1H, m, -CH-), 3.86 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.96 (1H, brs, CHN), 7.36 and 7.42 (2H, t x 2, J = 7.5, H-5, H-6), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 8, H-7), 7.90 (1H, s, H-2), 8.00 (1H, d, J = 8, H-4); m/z 308 (M⁺ free base, 50%) 226 (25), 156 (100), 125 (20), 82 (55).

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EXAMPLE 24

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(1R*,6S*) 2-Methyl-6-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate (isomer A) and (1R*,6R*) 2-Methyl-6-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate (isomer B)

45 The isoquinuclidine free base (0.18g) described in Example 23d was treated with formic acid (2.5ml, 98% in H₂O) and formaldehyde (2.5ml, 37% in H₂O) and heated at reflux for 1 hour; the solvents were removed at reduced pressure. The residual oil was washed with H₂O (10ml) and saturated K₂CO₃ solution (10ml), extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (6 x 15ml), dried over anhydrous K₂CO₃ and evaporated to dryness. The 2 isomers were purified and separated by flash silica chromatography, eluting with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (97:3) to afford isomer A (50mg) and isomer B (50mg) as waxy solids. Isomer A: δ_H (250MHz, CDCl₃) 1.5-2.5 (8H, m, 3 x CH₂ 2 x CH), 2.26 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.05-3.25 (3H, m, CH₂N, CH), 3.83 (3H, s, NCH₃), 7.23-7.38 (3H, m, ArH), 7.80 (1H, s, H-2), 8.23-8.27 (1H, m, H-4); m/z 322 (M⁺, 30%) 285 (40), 149 (90), 91 (100). Isomer B: δ_H (250MHz, CDCl₃) 1.6-2.3 (7H, brm, 3 x CH₂, CH), 2.50 (3H, s, NCH₃), 2.60 (1H, brd, CH), 2.95-3.03 (2H, m, CH₂N), 3.6-3.7 (1H, brm, CH), 3.87 (3H, s, NCH₃), 7.25-7.41 (3H, m, ArH), 7.82 (1H, s, H-2), 8.21-8.26 (1H, m, H-4); m/z 322 (M⁺, 60%) 156 (40), 94 (100). The oxalate salts were prepared as described in Example 23c. Isomer A: m.p. 169-170 °C (dec). Isomer B: m.p. 65 °C.

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EXAMPLE 25

5 3[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane hydrogen oxalate hemihydrate (exo)
and 3[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane hydrogen oxalate (endo)

This was prepared from [1-methylindol-3-yl]amide oxime (2.85g) and 3-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo-
 [2.2.1] heptane (1.6g) using the method described in Example 3. The resulting oil was purified and the
 10 isomers separated by chromatography on Al₂O₃ (Merck, grade III) eluting with 2:1 CH₂Cl₂:EtOAc to afford
 the less polar exo isomer (1.20g) and the more polar endo isomer (0.17g) as yellow oils. The oxalate salts
 of both isomers were prepared as described in Example 23c. Exo isomer: m.p. 165-166 °C (dec). Found: C,
 57.85; H, 5.28; N, 14.06. C₁₇H₁₈N₄O.(COOH)₂. ½ H₂O requires C, 58.01; H, 5.37; N, 14.28%; δ_H (360MHz,
 D₂O) 2.00-2.10 (1H, m, CHH), 2.25-2.35 (1H, m, CHH), 3.3-3.7 (6H, m, 2 x CH₂N, 2 x CH), 3.79 (3H, s,
 15 NCH₃), 3.80-3.90 (2H, m, CH₂N), 7.31 and 7.38 (2H, 2 x dt, J = 8, 1Hz, H-5 and H-6), 7.50 (1H, d, J =
 8Hz, H-7), 7.71 (1H, s, H-2), 7.88 (1H, dd, J = 8, 1Hz), m/z 294 (M⁺ free base, 20%) 156 (100), 96 (65).
 Endo isomer: m.p. 152-154 °C. Found: C, 58.89; H, 5.28; N, 14.41; C₁₇H₁₈N₄O. (COOH)₂. (0.1) H₂O
 requires C, 59.09; H, 5.27; N, 14.51%; δ_H (250MHz, D₂O) 1.6-1.7 (1H, m, CHH), 2.0-2.2 (1H, m, CHH), 3.3-
 3.6 (5H, brm, 2 x CH₂N, CH), 3.7-3.8 (1H, m, CH), 3.79 (3H, s, NCH₃), 7.28-7.41 (2H, m, ArH), 7.50 (1H, d, J
 20 = 8Hz, H-7), 7.73 (1H, s, H-2), 7.89 (1H, d, J = 8Hz, H-4); m/z 294 (M⁺ free base, 100%) 225 (60), 156
 (60), 124 (50), 96 (45).

EXAMPLE 26

25 3[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

30 a) Methyl (1-methylindol-3-yl)imide hydrochloride

Dry hydrogen chloride gas was bubbled through a solution of 1-methylindole-3-nitrile (17g.) in dry
 methanol (100ml). After standing at room temperature for 24 hr the solvent was evaporated at reduced
 35 pressure. The residue was triturated with cold ether/methanol to afford the title compound as white crystals
 (18g, 88%), m.p. 156-158 °C (dec); δ_H (360MHz, DMSO-d₆) 3.4 (1H, s, NH), 3.9 (3H, s, NMe), 4.3 (3H, s,
 OMe), 7.3 (1H, dt, J = 7.4, 1.2Hz, CH), 7.4 (1H, dt, J = 8.2, 1.6Hz, CH), 7.7 (1H, d, J = 7.8Hz, CH), 7.9
 (1H, dd, J = 6.7, 1.1Hz, CH), 9.0 (1H, s, CH); m/z 188 (M⁺).

40 b) [1-Methylindol-3-yl]amidine hydrochloride

Dry ammonia gas was bubbled through a solution of the imide (8.0g) in dry methanol (120ml) for 2
 hours. After standing at room temperature for 24 hours the solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure to
 45 afford a buff coloured solid (7.5g) contaminated with ~ 20% 1-methylindole-3-amide by ¹H NMR. The title
 compound was used without further purification, m.p. 245-250 °C.; δ_H (250MHz, DMSO-d₆) 3.91 (3H, s,
 NCH₃), 7.25-7.42 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.61-7.67 (1H, dd, J = 10, 2Hz, H-7), 7.67-7.92 (1H, dd, J = 2, 10Hz,
 H-4), 8.40 (1H, s, H-2), 8.9-9.0 (3H, m, NH₂ and NH); m/z 173 (M⁺ free base, 25%), 157 (100).

50 c) 5-Chloro-3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazole

To an ice-cold, rapidly stirred two-phase mixture of the crude amidine (7.2g) and perchloromethylmer-
 captan (5.1g) in water (30ml) and CH₂Cl₂ (40ml) was added over 45 minutes a solution of NaOH (5.5g) in
 55 water (30ml). The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 4 hours, the layers separated and
 the aqueous phase extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 3ml). The combined organic portions were dried over
 Na₂SO₄, concentrated to dryness at reduced pressure and the resulting orange oil purified by flash silica
 chromatography, eluting with 1:1 hexane/CH₂Cl₂ to yield a yellow crystalline solid (4.2g) m.p. 93-94 °C; δ_H -

(250MHz, CDCl₃) 3.67 (3H, s, NCH₃), 7.21-7.29 (3H, m, ArH), 7.74 (1H, s, H-2), 7.40-7.43 (1H, m, H-4); m/z 249 (M⁺, 100%), 188 (100), 156 (100).

5 d) 3-[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

To a stirred solution of 3-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (0.95g) in anhydrous THF (60ml) cooled to -78 °C was added LDA (5.0ml of a 2.5M solution in cyclohexane) and kept at this temperature for 1 hour. The chlorothiadiazole (1.40g) in THF (10ml) was added and left to stir at -78 °C for 1½ hours before
 10 the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature smoothly over 2 hours. Solvents were evaporated at reduced pressure to afford the crude ester as a viscous oil which was dissolved in MeOH (30ml) and THF (20ml) and treated with aqueous NaOH solution (30ml, 2N) cooling in ice for 30 minutes. Volatile solvents were evaporated at reduced pressure and the aqueous solution extracted with EtOAc (3 x 30ml). The aqueous layer was acidified to pH2 with concentrated hydrochloric acid and stirred at room temperature for
 15 2 hours, before basifying with saturated K₂CO₃ solution and extracting with CH₂Cl₂ (4 x 30ml). The combined organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and solvent evaporated at reduced pressure to afford a brown oil which was purified by flash silica chromatography eluting with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (92:8) to yield a glassy solid (0.11g). Preparation of the oxalate salt as described above (Example 23C) gave the title compound as a white crystalline solid. m.p. . Found: C, ; H, ; N, ; requires C, ; H, ; N,
 20 %; δ_H (D₂O, 250MHz) 1.7-1.9 and 2.1-2.2 (2 x 2H, 2 x brs, 2 x CH₂), 2.33 (1H, brs, CH), 3.3-3.5 (4H, brm, 2 x CH₂N), 3.6-3.7 (3H, brs, CH₂N, -CH-), 3.76 (3H, s, NCH₃), 7.25-7.40 (2H, m, ArH), 7.45 (1H, d, J = 11Hz, H-7), 7.77 (1H, s, H-2), 8.14 (1H, d, J = 11Hz, H-4); m/z

25

EXAMPLE 27

30 3-[3-(1H-Indazol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1- azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

30

a) [1H-Indazol-3-yl]amide oxime

Hydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.5g) and potassium carbonate (3.83g) were stirred together in absolute
 35 ethanol (100ml) for 15 minutes. Indazole-3-carbonitrile (2g) was added and the solution heated at reflux for 4 hours, cooled to room temperature and diluted with methanol (5ml). The solution was filtered and the solvent evaporated. The residue was extracted with anhydrous ether, the extracts were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent removed to afford a white solid, which was recrystallised from acetone/dichloromethane to afford the title compound (900mg), m.p. 155-158 °C. δ_H (360MHz, CDCl₃) 6.46
 40 (1H, brm, N-OH), 7.17 (1H, t, J = 1Hz, H-6), 7.41 (1H, t, J = 2Hz, H-5), 7.55 (1H, d, J = 2Hz, H-4), 8.03 (1H, t, J = 2Hz, H-7); m/z (M⁺, 100%), 176 (100), 144 (80), 119 (25), 92 (15).

45 b) 3-[3-(1H-Indazol-3-yl)-1,2,4,oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

45

[1H-Indazol-3-yl]amide oxime (190mg) was dissolved in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (50ml) to which was added 4A molecular sieves. After stirring for 15 minutes sodium hydride (100mg of 55% dispersion in oil) was added and the mixture stirred for a further 15 minutes before the addition of 3-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (400mg). The resulting mixture was then heated at reflux for six hours, then cooled
 50 to room temperature. Methanol (10ml) was added, the solution filtered and the solvent evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica using CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH/NH₄OH 90/10/1 as eluant to afford a colourless oil (300mg). This was further purified by treatment with a solution of oxalic acid in acetone to afford the title compound, m.p. 215 °C (dec). Found: C, 58.22; H, 5.44; N, 19.41. C₁₈H₁₇N₅O₆ requires C, 57.92; H, 5.13; N, 19.30%; δ_H (360MHz, D₂O) 1.98 (2H, m, CH₂CH₂-N), 2.26 (2H, m, CH₂CH₂-N), 2.75 (1H, m, CH-CH₂CH₂-N), 3.51 (3H, m, CH₂CH₂N), 3.97 (3H, m, CH₂CH₂N), 7.35 (1H, t, J = 4Hz, H-6), 7.54 (1H, t, J = 4.9Hz, H-5), 7.68 (1H, d, J = 4Hz, H-7), 8.03 (1H, d, J = 4Hz, H-4); m/z (M⁺, free base 95%) 295 (95), 238 (15), 212 (100), 159 (40), 143 (35), 96 (70), 83 (60).

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EXAMPLE 285 3-[3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrochloridea) [1H-indol-3-yl]amide oxime 0.25 hydrate

10 1H-indole-3-nitrile (25.45g,) and potassium carbonate (49.77g,) were added to a solution of hydroxylamine hydrochloride (18.77g,) in ethanol (600ml) under nitrogen. After heating under reflux for 6 hours the mixture was filtered while hot and the precipitates washed with ethanol. The filtrate and washings were combined and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by flash chromatography eluting with acetone/dichloro methane mixtures. Recrystallisation from acetone/dichloromethane gave the title compound

15 m.p. 154-156 °C. Found: C, 60.36; H, 5.15; N, 23.42; C₉H₉N₃O.0.25H₂O requires C, 60.16; H, 5.33; N, 23.38%; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO-d₆) 5.58 (2H, s, NH₂), 7.00 (1H, dt, J = 8.0 and 1.0, CH), 7.10 (1H, dt, J = 8.2 and 1.2, CH), 7.36 (1H, d, J = 8.0, CH), 7.75 (1H, d, J = 2.1, CH), 8.05 (1H, d, J = 7.8, CH), 9.18 (1H, s,) and 11.20 (1H, s, exchangeable protons); m/z 175 (M⁺).

20

b) 3-[3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrochloride

A mixture of 1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane-3-carboxylic acid hydrochloride (0.89g,) and molecular sieves (2.0g) was stirred in dry dimethylformamide (50ml) for 30 minutes. Triethylamine (1.4ml,) was added and,

25 after chilling, ethyl chloroformate (0.5ml,) followed by a solution of [1H-indol-3-yl] amide oxime (0.85g, 4.9mmol) in dimethylformamide (10ml). After stirring at room temperature for two hours and heating to 120 °C for 2 hours the mixture was cooled, filtered through hyflo and evaporated to dryness. The residue was taken up in 2N hydrochloric acid and washed with dichloromethane. After basification with 8% ammonia solution, the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane. The extracts were dried

30 (MgSO₄) and solvents evaporated. Addition of methanol and methanolic hydrogen chloride gave the title compound; m.p. 226-228 °C. δ_H (360MHz, D₂O) 1.88-2.04 (2H, m, CH₂), 2.14-2.28 (2H, m, CH₂), 2.68-2.74 (1H, m, CH), 3.36-3.54 (4H, m, 2xCH₂), 3.78-3.96 (3H, m, CH₂ + CH), 7.34-7.42 (2H, m, 2xCH), 7.65 (1H, d, J = 7.2, CH), 8.07 (1H, d, J = 5.9, CH) and 8.08 (1H, s, CH), m/z 294 (M⁺).

35

EXAMPLE 2940 3-[3-(1,7-Dimethylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalatea) 1,7-Dimethylindole-3-carboxylic acid

45 Methyl iodide (30g) was added to a stirred mixture of 7-methylindole-3-carboxylic acid (4.3g) and powdered potassium hydroxide (20g) in anhydrous acetone at 0 °C. The resulting suspension was then stirred at room temperature overnight, then poured into water (500ml), washed with dichloromethane (3 x 100ml) and the aqueous phase acidified to pH 2 with hydrochloric acid. The product was isolated by filtration and dried under vacuum to afford white crystals (4.5g); m.p. 243 °C; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO-d₆) 2.72

50 (3H, s, CH₃), 4.09 (3H, s, NCH₃), 6.92 (1H, d, J = 6Hz, H-6), 7.02 (1H, t, J = 6Hz, H-5), 7.87 (1H, d, J = 6, H-4), 7.92 (1H, s, H-2); m/z 189 (M⁺, 100%), 172 (40), 144 (30), 91 (55).

b) 1,7-Dimethylindole-3-carboxamide

55

Oxalyl chloride (6.0g) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 1,7-dimethylindole-3-carboxylic acid (4.5g) in tetrahydrofuran (50ml) at 0 °C. After the addition the solution was stirred for 12hrs at room temperature. The solvent was then evaporated at reduced pressure and the residue dissolved in dich-

loroethane (100ml) and ammonia bubbled through the solution for five hours. The solvent was then removed at reduced pressure and the residue triturated with water (20ml) and ether (2 x 50ml) to yield a white solid (4.4g); m.p. 197° C; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO- d_6) 2.72 (3H, s, CH₃), 4.03 (3H, s, NCH₃), 6.67 (1H, d, J = 6Hz, H-6), 6.96 (1H, t, J = 6Hz, H-5), 7.86 (1H, s, H-2), 8.00 (1H, d, J = 6Hz, H-4); m/z 188 (M⁺, 55%), 172 (100), 88 (40).

c) 1,7-Dimethylindole-3-nitrile

Trifluoroacetic anhydride (20g) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of the amide (4.4g) in dioxane (200ml) and triethylamine (19g) at 0° C. The resulting mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 12hr. The resulting solution was diluted with dichloromethane (500ml) and washed with water (3 x 200ml), the organic phase was then dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica, eluting with dichloromethane affords a white solid (3g); m.p. 116° C; δ_H (360MHz, CDCl₃) 2.75 (3H, s, CH₃), 4.08 (3H, s, NCH₃), 7.02 (1H, d, J = 6Hz, H-6), 7.14 (1H, t, J = 6Hz, H-5), 7.43 (1H, s, H-2), 7.56 (1H, d, J = 6Hz, H-4); m/z 170.0840 (M⁺, C₁₁H₁₀N₂ requires 170.0844, 100%).

d) [1,7-Dimethylindol-3-yl]amide oxime

Potassium carbonate (6g) was added to a stirred solution of the nitrile (2.7g) and hydroxylamine hydrochloride (2g) in dry methanol (100ml). The solution was heated at reflux for 12 hr, then cooled to 0° C and filtered. The solvent was then evaporated at reduced pressure and the residue purified by chromatography on silica eluting with dichloromethane/acetone (1:1) to afford a white solid (0.5g); m.p. 177-180° C; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO- d_6) 2.74 (3H, s, CH₃), 4.02 (3H, s, NCH₃), 6.13-6.90 (2H, m, H-5, H-6), 7.58 (1H, s, H-2), 7.91 (1H, d, J = 6Hz, H-4); m/z 203.1070 (M⁺, C₁₁H₁₃N₃O requires 203.1059, 80%), 170(100).

c) 3-[3-(1,7-Dimethylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

This was prepared from [1,7-dimethylindol-3-yl] amide oxime (0.4g) and 3-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (0.5g) using the procedure described in Example 3. This was purified by chromatography on alumina eluting with dichloromethane/methanol (98:2). Formation of the oxalate salt as described previously gave the title compound as white crystals (0.4g); m.p. 146° C; δ_H (360MHz, DMSO- d_6) 1.75-2.2 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂), 2.54 (1H, brs, CH), 2.77 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.2-3.3 (4H, m, 2 x CH₂), 3.65-3.85 (3H, m, CH₂CH₂), 4.15 (3H, s, NCH₃), 6.98 (1H, d, J = 6Hz, H-6), 7.08 (1H, t, J = 6Hz, H-5), 7.88 (1H, d, J = 6Hz, H-4), 8.06 (1H, s, H-2); m/z 322 (M⁺ free base, 30%), 239 (35), 170 (100), 169 (55).

EXAMPLE 30

4-[2-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine hydrochloride

a) 4-[2-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]pyridine

Methyl [1-methylindol-3-yl]imidate hydrochloride (example 26A) (3.0g) and isonicotinic acid hydrazide (1.84g) were dissolved in absolute ethanol (100ml), heated at reflux for 60 hours, cooled to room temperature and evaporated to dryness. The residue was taken up in water (200ml), extracted with dichloromethane (4 x 100ml), dried over MgSO₄, and the solvent removed to give a yellow solid. Recrystallisation from ethanol gave the title compound as white needles (1.7g) m.p. 212-214° C; Found: C, 69.39%; H, 4.38%; N, 20.16%; C₁₆H₁₂N₄O requires C, 69.39%; H, 4.38%; N, 20.16%; δ_H (CDCl₃) 3.02 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 7.3-7.45 (3H, brm, H-4,5,6), 7.89 (1H, s, H-2), 7.99 (2H, dd, J = 5.1Hz, CH=CH-N), 8.27-8.34 (1H, brm, H-7), 8.83 (2H, dd, J = 5, 1Hz, CH=CH-N); m/z (M⁺, 30%) 276 (30), 158 (100), 130 (15), 91 (20), 77 (30).

c) 4-[2-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-methylpyridinium iodide

4-[2-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]-pyridine (50mg) was dissolved in dry acetone (10ml), methyl iodide (127mg) was then added, and the resulting solution heated at reflux for twenty four hours under a dry nitrogen atmosphere. The solution was allowed to cool to room temperature and the yellow solid isolated by filtration. Recrystallisation from acetone afforded the title compound (70mg); m.p. 290° C (dec); Found: C, 47.85; H, 3.56; N, 13.12; $C_{17}N_{16}N_4O_{15}I$ requires C, 47.79; H, 3.77; N, 13.11%; δ_H - (360MHz, DMSO- d_6) 3.98 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 4.43 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 7.38 (2H, brm, H-5,6), 7.68 (1H, brm, H-4), 8.24 (1H, brm, H-7), 8.49 (1H, s, H-2), 8.70 (2H, d, J = 8.4Hz, CH=CH-N), 9.18 (2H, d, J = 8.4Hz, CH=CH-N); m/z (M⁺ free base 60%), 276 (60), 158 (100), 127 (20), 103 (10), 77 (10).

d) 4-[2-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine hydrogen chloride

4-[2-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-methylpyridinium iodide (1.0g) was suspended in a mixture of ethanol (50ml) and water (5ml) with vigorous stirring. NaBH₄ (200mg) was added portionwise until the solution was clear and colourless. The solution was stirred for one hour at room temperature. 2N Hydrochloric acid (10ml) was added to quench the excess NH₄OH, followed by 0.88 NH₃ to pH 12, the solution was then extracted with dichloromethane (4 x 100ml), dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica eluting with methanol/dichloromethane (2:98). The isolated product was treated with an excess of ethereal HCl, recrystallisation from absolute methanol afforded the title compound as a white solid m.p. 245-250° C. Found: C, 61.35; H, 5.85; N, 16.74; $C_{17}H_{18}N_4OCl$ requires C 61.72; H, 5.78; N, 16.93%; δ_H (360MHz, D₂O) 2.67 (2H, brm, CH₂-N-CH₃), 3.07 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 3.4 (2H, brm, CH₂N-CH₃), 3.55 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 3.48 (2H, brm, CH₂CH₂N), 6.27 (1H, brm, C=CH-CH₂), 7.09 (2H, brm, H-5,6), 7.11 (1H, d, J = 5Hz, H-4), 7.22 (1H, s, H-2), 7.35 (1H, d, J = 5Hz, H-7); m/z 294 (M⁺ free base, 100%), 158 (40), 110 (30), 94 (30), 77 (10).

EXAMPLE 31

3-[2-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridinium hydrochloride

a) 1-Methylindole-3-thiocarboxamide

1-Methylindole-3-carboxamide (0.6g) was suspended in toluene (20ml); Lawesson's Reagent (0.7g) was added and the mixture was heated at reflux under nitrogen for 30 min until dissolution occurred. The solution was cooled and toluene was removed under reduced pressure. The orange residue was purified by column chromatography on alumina using CH₂Cl₂ as eluant. This afforded an orange crystalline material. (0.5g). δ_H (360MHz, DMSO- d_6) 3.82 (3H, s, NCH₃), 7.18 and 7.23 (2H, 2 x dt, J = 7.1, 1.1Hz, H-5 and H-6), 7.49 (1H, d, J = 7.5Hz, H-7), 8.08 (1H, s, H-2), 8.59 (1H, d, J = 7.5Hz, H-4), 8.76 (2H, brs, NH₂); m/z 190 (M⁺, 100%), 174 (20), 157 (80).

b) 3-[2-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl] pyridinium hydrobromide

1-Methylindole-3-thiocarboxamide (0.5g) was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (5ml). This solution was added to a stirred suspension of 3-bromoacetylpyridinium hydrobromide (1.1g) in anhydrous DMF (2ml). This was stirred for 10 minutes at room temperature. The title compound was isolated by filtration and was washed thoroughly with ether, 0.5g. δ_H (360MHz, DMSO- d_6) 3.91 (3H, s, NCH₃), 7.2-7.4 (2H, m, H-5 and H-6), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 7.4Hz, H-7), 8.03 (1H, dd, J = 5.5, 8.1Hz, H-5' β pyr), 8.26 (1H, s, H-5' thiazole), 8.36 (1H, d, partially buried, H-4), 8.38 (1H, s, H-2), 8.83 (1H, mc, H-4' γ pyr), 8.99 (1H, d, J = 8.2Hz, H-6' α -pyr), 9.47 (1H, mc, H-2' α -pyr); m/z 291 (M⁺, 100%), 135 (30).

c) 3-[2-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl]-1-methylpyridinium iodide

The hydrobromide above was liberated as the free base by treatment with methanolic K_2CO_3 . The residue was suspended in water and extracted with dichloromethane. The organic phase was dried ($MgSO_4$) and evaporated under reduced pressure; the resulting solid was purified by flash chromatography on silica using 10% ethyl acetate in dichloromethane affording a pale yellow solid (0.6g). This was dissolved in acetone (25ml) and methyl iodide (1ml) was added to the stirred solution. After 5 min a crystalline precipitate was observed. This was isolated by filtration and was washed with ether and dried, yielding 0.85g of a bright yellow crystalline material, m.p. $250^\circ C$ (dec). Found: C, 49.90; H, 3.71; N, 9.65. $C_{18}H_{16}N_3S$ requires C, 49.89; H, 3.72; N, 9.70%. δ_H (360MHz, $DMSO-d_6$) 3.91 (3H, s, NCH_3), 4.48 (3H, s, NCH_3 pyr), 7.29-7.36 (2H, m, H-5 and H-6), 7.59 (1H, dd, $J = 6.4, 1.5$ Hz, H-7), 8.22 (1H, dd, $J = 6.1, 6.0$ Hz, H-5" β -pyr), 8.27 (1H, s, H-5' thiazole), 8.40 (1H, dd, H-4 partially hidden), 8.41 (1H, s, H-2), 8.94 (1H, d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, H-4" β -pyr), 9.13 (1H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, H-6" α -pyr), 9.59 (1H, s, H-2" α -pyr); m/z 291 (M^+ , 40%), 220 (80), 169 (100).

15 d) 3-[2-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridinium hydrochloride

3-[2-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl]-1-methylpyridinium iodide (0.8g) was suspended in ethanol (20ml) and water (1ml). Sodium borohydride (0.1g) was added in portions with much evolution of hydrogen. After 30 minutes the intense yellow coloration was replaced by a light brown hue. 5M Hydrochloric acid was added dropwise to quench excess sodium borohydride. The contents of the flask were poured onto a saturated solution of sodium bicarbonate which was extracted with dichloromethane (4 x 150ml). This was washed with brine, dried ($MgSO_4$) and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica using 10% methanol in dichloromethane as eluant yielding 0.4g. This was further purified by dissolving in methanol; addition of methanolic HCl (20ml) precipitated the hydrochloride as a yellow powder. This was recrystallised from aqueous ethanol, m.p. $235^\circ C$ (dec). δ_H 2.6-2.8 (2H, m, β -pyr), 3.08 (3H, s, NMe pyr), 3.16-3.28 (1H, m, α -pyr), 3.65 (1H, mc, α -pyr), 3.74 (1H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, H-1 α -pyr), 4.14 (1H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, H-1 α -pyr), 6.53 (1H, mc, H-4 γ -pyr), 7.09 (1H, s, SCH), 7.23 and 7.30 (2H, 2 x t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, H-5 and H-6), 7.37 (1H, d, $J = 7.9$ Hz), 7.53 (1H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.75 (1H, s, H-2); m/z 309 (M^+ free base, 100%), 265 (40), 168 (40), 96 (35).

EXAMPLE 32

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3[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane hydrogen oxalate (exo) and 3[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane hydrogen oxalate (endo)

These were prepared from 5-chloro-3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazole (2.6g) and 3-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane (1.8g) using the method described in Example 26 d. The resulting oil was purified and the isomers separated by flash silica gel chromatography eluting with 95:5 CH_2Cl_2 :MeOH to afford the less polar exo isomer (0.18g) and the more polar endo isomer (0.49g) as crystalline solids. The oxalate salts were prepared by addition of an ethereal solution of oxalic acid to the free bases dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 to give both isomers as white crystalline solids. Exo isomer: m.p. $171-172^\circ C$ (dec); δ_H (250MHz, D_2O) 1.9-2.0 and 2.2-2.3 (2H, brn, CH_2), 3.1-3.8 (8H, brn, 3 x CH_2N , 2 x CH), 3.81 (3H, s, NCH_3), 7.26-7.40 (2H, m, ArH), 7.49 (1H, d, $J = 8$ Hz, H-7), 7.81 (1H, s, H-2), 8.15 (1H, d, $J = 7$ Hz, H-4), m/z 310 (M^+ free base 100%) 188 (30), 156 (95). Endo isomer: m.p. $195-196^\circ C$ (dec). Found: C, 56.30; H, 5.06; N, 13.75; $C_{17}H_{18}N_4S(COOH)_2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} H_2O$ requires C, 56.35; H, 5.10; N, 13.84%; δ_H (250MHz, D_2O) 1.7-1.8 and 2.0-2.1 (2H, brn, CH_2), 3.4-3.6 (5H, m, 2 x CH_2N , CH), 3.7-3.8 (1H, m, CHHN), 3.85 (3H, s, NCH_3), 3.8-4.0 (1H, m, CHHN), 4.25-4.35 (1H, brn, CH), 7.3-7.4 (2H, m, ArH), 7.54 (1H, d, $J = 8$ Hz, H-7), 7.94 (1H, s, H-2), 8.24 (1H, d, $J = 7$ Hz, H-4); m/z 310 (M^+ free base 100%) 188 (30), 156 (90).

EXAMPLE 33

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3[3-(1H-Indol-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

a) [1H-Indol-2-yl]amide oxime

1H-Indol-2-nitrile (0.39g) was heated at reflux in ethanol (25ml) with hydroxylamine hydrochloride (0.29g) and potassium carbonate (0.76g) for 3 hours. The solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure to yield the crude product as a buff coloured solid (0.44g) which was used without further purification. δ_H - (250MHz, DMSO- d_6) 3.32 (3H, s, NCH₃), 5.83 (2H, br s, NH₂), 6.84 (1H, m, H-3), 6.9-7.5 (4H, m, ArH); m/z 175 (M⁺, 60%) 142 (100).

b) 3-[3-(1H-Indol-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane hydrogen oxalate

This was prepared from [1H-Indol-2-yl]amide oxime (0.43g) and 3-carbomethoxy-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (0.83g) using the method described in Example 3. The resulting solid was purified by silica gel chromatography eluting with 97:3 CH₂Cl₂/MeOH. This was further purified by formation of the oxalate salt to afford the title compound (0.30g), m.p. 180-182 °C (dec); Found: C, 56.02; H, 5.21; N, 13.14; requires C, 55.94; H, 4.92; N, 13.05%. δ_H (360MHz, CF₃COOD).

EXAMPLE 34

Tablet Preparation

Tablets containing 1.0, 2.0, 25.0, 26.0, 50.0 and 100.0 mg, respectively, of the following compounds are prepared as illustrated below:

- 3-[3-1-(Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane.
- 1-Methyl-4-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine.
- 3-[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-8-methyl-1-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane.
- 1-Methyl-3-[5-dimethylaminoethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl] indole.
- 3-[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane.
- 3-[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane.
- 3-[3-(1-Methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane

TABLE FOR DOSES CONTAINING FROM 1-25 MG OF THE ACTIVE COMPOUND

	Amount-mg		
Active Compound	1.0	2.0	25.0
Microcrystalline cellulose	49.25	48.75	37.25
Modified food corn starch	49.25	48.75	37.25
Magnesium stearate	0.50	0.50	0.50

TABLE FOR DOSES CONTAINING FROM 26-100 MG OF THE ACTIVE COMPOUND

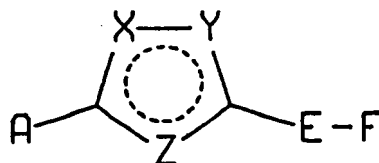
	Amount-mg		
Active Compound	26.0	50.0	100.0
Microcrystalline cellulose	52.0	100.0	200.0
Modified food corn starch	2.21	4.25	8.5
Magnesium stearate	0.39	0.75	1.5

All of the active compound, lactose, and a portion of the corn starch are mixed and granulated to a 10% corn starch paste. The resulting granulation is sieved, dried and blended with the remainder of the corn starch paste. The resulting granulation is sieved, dried and blended with the remainder of the corn starch paste. The resulting granulation is sieved, dried and blended with the remainder of the corn starch paste.

1.0mg, 2.0mg, 25.0mg, 26.0mg, 50.0mg and 100.0mg of active ingredient per tablet.

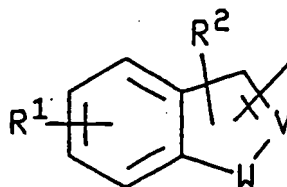
Claims

1. A compound of formula I or a salt or prodrug thereof:



(I)

wherein the dotted circle represents one or two double bonds in any position in the 5-membered ring;
X, Y and Z independently represent oxygen, sulphur, nitrogen or carbon, provided that at least one of X, Y and Z represents oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen;
A represents a group of formula II:



(II)

in which:

R¹ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, halogen, amino, cyano, -CONR⁵R⁷ or -SO₂NR⁵R⁷, in which R⁵ and R⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl or C₂₋₆ alkynyl;

R² represents hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl;

V represents nitrogen, -CH or -C-; and

W represents oxygen, sulphur or -NR⁸, in which R⁸ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl or C₂₋₆ alkynyl;

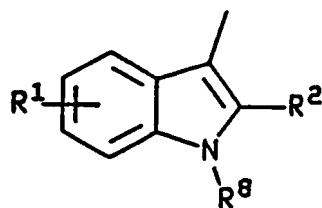
E represents a bond or a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and optionally being substituted with hydroxy or phenyl; and

F represents:

a) a non-aromatic azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system; or

b) a group of formula -NR^aR^b, in which R^a and R^b independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl or aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein A represents an indole of structure IIB:

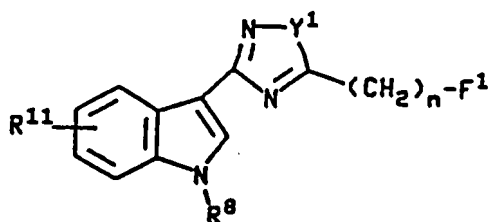


(IIB)

wherein R¹, R² and R⁸ are as defined in claim 1.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein F represents pyrrolidine, piperidine, tetrahydropyridine, azanorbomane, quinuclidine, isoquinuclidine, azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane or azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane, any of which may be optionally substituted with methoxy, methyl or hydroxy.

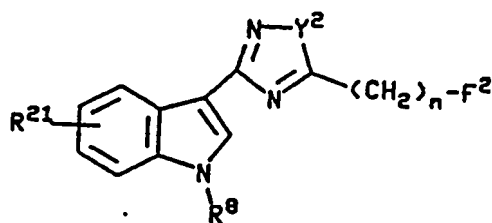
4. A compound as claimed in claim 1 represented by formula III:



(III)

wherein R⁸ is as defined in claim 1; Y¹ represents oxygen or sulphur; n is zero, 1 or 2; R¹¹ represents hydrogen, hydroxy or hydroxymethyl; and F¹ represents a group of formula -NR^aR^b as defined in claim 1.

5. A compound as claimed in claim 1 represented by formula IV:



(IV)

wherein R⁸ is as defined in claim 1; Y² represents oxygen or sulphur; n is zero, 1 or 2; R²¹ represents hydrogen, halogen, cyano or C₁₋₆ alkyl; and F² represents a non-aromatic azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system.

6. A compound as claimed in claim 1 selected from:

3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;

2-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;

1-methyl-3-[5-dimethylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;

[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]methyltrimethylammonium iodide;

1-methyl-4-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine;

1,1-dimethyl-4-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidinium iodide;

1-methyl-3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine;

1,1-dimethyl-3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidinium iodide;

1-methyl-3-[5-aminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;

- 1-methyl-3-[5-methylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 3-[3-(5-fluoro-1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 1-methyl-3-[5-dimethylaminoethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane;
 5 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[5-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[4-(5-cyanoindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-aza-2-methoxybicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 10 1-methyl-3-[5-(2-aminoethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 1-methyl-3-[5-(2-N-methylaminoethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 1-methyl-3-[5-(2-(1-piperidyl)ethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 6-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 15 2-methyl-6-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane;
 3-[3-(methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[3-(1H-indazol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 20 3-[3-(1,7-dimethylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 4-[2-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[2-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane;
 3-[3-(1H-indol-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 25 and salts and prodrugs thereof.

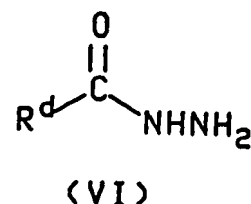
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

8. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 for use as a therapeutic agent.

9. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 for the preparation of a medicament
 30 for the treatment of psychotic disorders; anxiety; alcohol or drug withdrawal; pain; gastric dysfunction; migraine, nausea and vomiting; and presenile and senile dementia.

10. A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 which comprises:

(A) reaction of a reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula $R^c\text{-CO}_2\text{H}$ with a compound either
 35 of formula V or of formula VI, or a salt thereof:



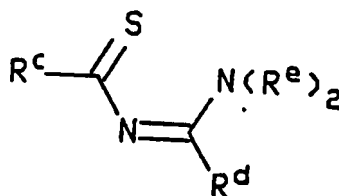
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wherein one of R^c and R^d is a group of formula A, and the other is a group of formula -E-F, as defined in claim 1; or

(B) cyclisation of a compound of formula VIII:

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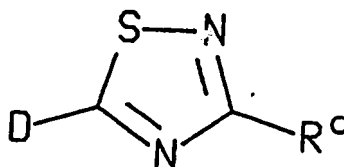


(VIII)

wherein R^c and R^d are as defined above, and R^e is hydrogen or an alkyl group; or

(C) cycloaddition of a nitrile sulphide $\text{R}^c - \text{C} \equiv \text{N} - \text{S}^-$ with a nitrile of formula $\text{R}^d \text{CN}$ where R^c and R^d are as defined above; or

(D) reaction of a thiadiazole of formula IX:

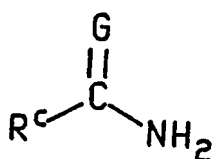


(IX)

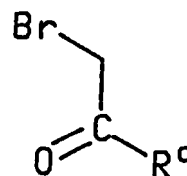
with a reagent which provides an anion $^-\text{R}^e$, where R^e and R^d are as previously defined and D represents halogen; or

(E) dehydration of a thiosemicarbazide of formula $\text{R}^c \text{CSNHNHCONR}^e \text{R}^f$, where R^c is as defined above and R^e and R^f are hydrogen or an alkyl group; followed by attachment of the R^d group by conventional means; or

(F) reaction of an amide or thioamide of formula X with a α -haloketone of formula XI:



(X)

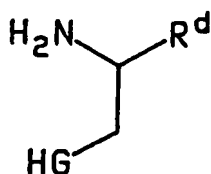


(XI)

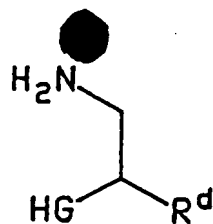
wherein G is oxygen or sulphur, and R^c and R^d are as defined above; or

(G) reaction of an amide of formula X above, wherein G represents oxygen, with a α -haloketone of formula XI above, or a chloro derivative thereof, in the presence of ammonia; or

(H) reaction of a reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula $\text{R}^c - \text{CO}_2\text{H}$ with a compound either of formula XII or of formula XIII or a salt thereof:

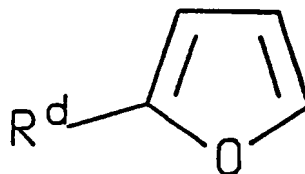


(XII)



(XIII)

wherein G is oxygen or sulphur and R^e and R^d are as defined above; or
 (I) reaction of a nitrile oxide with an appropriate alkene; or
 (J) reaction of a compound of formula XIV:

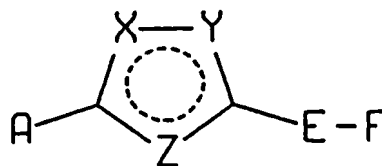


(XIV)

with a reagent which provides an anion R^e , wherein R^e and R^d are as previously defined.

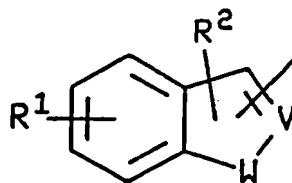
Claims for the following Contracting States : ES, GR

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I or a salt or prodrug thereof:



(I)

wherein the dotted circle represents one or two double bonds in any position in the 5-membered ring;
 X, Y and Z independently represent oxygen, sulphur, nitrogen or carbon, provided that at least one of X, Y
 and Z represents oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen;
 A represents a group of formula II:



(II)

15 in which:

R¹ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, halogen, amino, cyano, -CONR⁶R⁷ or -SO₂NR⁶R⁷, in which R⁶ and R⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl or C₂₋₆ alkynyl;

R² represents hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl;

20 V represents nitrogen, -CH or -C-; and

W represents oxygen, sulphur or -NR⁸, in which R⁸ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl or C₂₋₆ alkynyl;

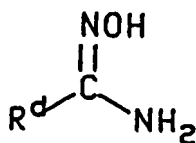
E represents a bond or a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and optionally being substituted with hydroxy or phenyl; and

25 F represents:

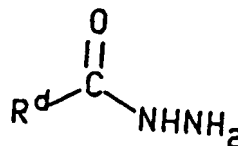
a) a non-aromatic azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system; or

b) a group of formula -NR^aR^b, in which R^a and R^b independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl or aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl; which process comprises:

30 (A) reaction of a reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula R^c-CO₂H with a compound either of formula V or of formula VI, or a salt thereof:



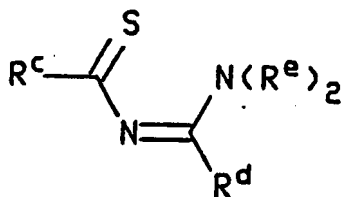
(V)



(VI)

40 wherein one of R^c and R^d is a group of formula A, and the other is a group of formula -E-F, as defined above; or

(B) cyclisation of a compound of formula VIII:

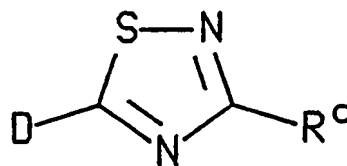


(VIII)

55 wherein R^c and R^d are as defined above, and R^e is hydrogen or an alkyl group; or

(C) cycloaddition of a nitrile sulphide $R^c-C\equiv N^+-S^-$ with a nitrile of formula R^dCN where R^c and R^d are as defined above; or

(D) reaction of a thiadiazole of formula IX:

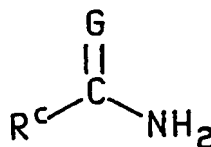


(IX)

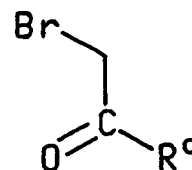
with a reagent which provides an anion $-R^e$, where R^c and R^d are as previously defined and D represents halogen; or

(E) dehydration of a thiosemicarbazide of formula $R^cCSNHNHCONR^sR^t$, where R^c is as defined above and R^s and R^t are hydrogen or an alkyl group; followed by attachment of the R^d group by conventional means; or

(F) reaction of an amide or thioamide of formula X with a α -haloketone of formula XI:



(X)

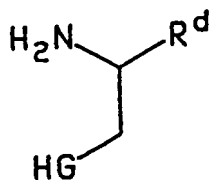


(XI)

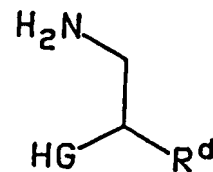
wherein G is oxygen or sulphur, and R^c and R^d are as defined above; or

(G) reaction of an amide of formula X above, wherein G represents oxygen, with a α -haloketone of formula XI above, or a chloro derivative thereof, in the presence of ammonia; or

(H) reaction of a reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula R^c-CO_2H with a compound either of formula XII or of formula XIII or a salt thereof:



(XII)

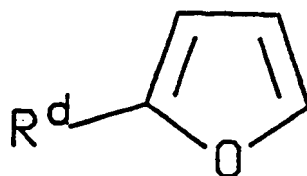


(XIII)

wherein G is oxygen or sulphur and R^c and R^d are as defined above; or

(I) reaction of a nitrile oxide with an appropriate alkene; or

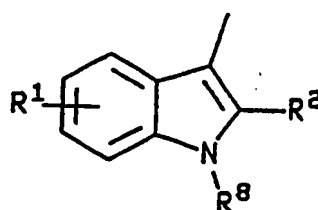
(J) reaction of a compound of formula (XIV):



(XIV)

with a reagent which provides an anion $^{-}R^e$, wherein R^e and R^d are as previously defined.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a compound wherein A represents an indole of structure IIB:

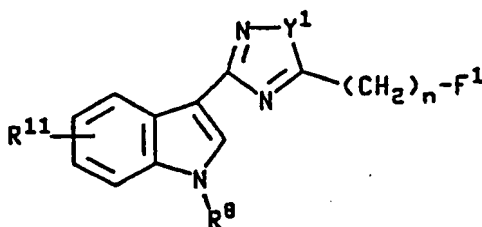


(IIB)

wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^8 are as defined in claim 1.

3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 for the preparation of a compound wherein F represents pyrrolidine, piperidine, tetrahydropyridine, azanorbomane, quinuclidine, isoquinuclidine, azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane or azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane, any of which may be optionally substituted with methoxy, methyl or hydroxy.

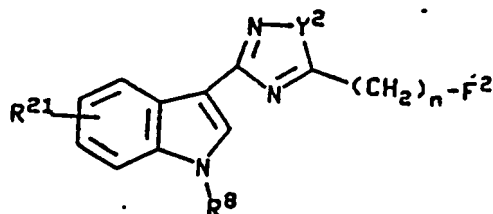
4. A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a compound represented by formula III:



(III)

wherein R^8 is as defined in claim 1; Y^1 represents oxygen or sulphur; n is zero, 1 or 2; R^{11} represents hydrogen, hydroxy or hydroxymethyl; and F^1 represents a group of formula $-NR^aR^b$ as defined in claim 1.

5. A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a compound represented by formula IV:



(IV)

wherein R^8 is as defined in claim 1; Y^2 represents oxygen or sulphur; n is zero, 1 or 2; R^{21} represents hydrogen, halogen, cyano or C_{1-6} alkyl; and F^2 represents a non-aromatic azacyclic or azabicyclic ring system.

6. A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a compound selected from:

3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 2-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 1-methyl-3-[5-dimethylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 [3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]methyltrimethylammonium iodide;
 1-methyl-4-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine;
 1,1-dimethyl-4-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidinium iodide;
 1-methyl-3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidine;
 1,1-dimethyl-3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]piperidinium iodide;
 1-methyl-3-[5-aminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 1-methyl-3-[5-methylaminomethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 3-[3-(5-fluoro-1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 1-methyl-3-[5-dimethylaminoethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[5-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[4-(5-cyanoindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-aza-2-methoxybicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 1-methyl-3-[5-(2-aminoethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 1-methyl-3-[5-(2-N-methylaminoethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 1-methyl-3-[5-(2-(1-piperidyl)ethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl]indole;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 6-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 2-methyl-6-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[3-(1H-indazol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 3-[3-(1,7-dimethylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 4-[2-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[2-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl]-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine;
 3-[3-(1-methylindol-3-yl)-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl]-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane;
 3-[3-(1H-indol-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl]-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
 and salts and prodrugs thereof.

7. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition which comprises mixing a compound prepared as claimed in any one of the preceding claims with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

8. The use of a compound prepared as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of psychotic disorders; anxiety; alcohol or drug withdrawal; pain; gastric dysfunction; migraine, nausea and vomiting; and presenile and senile dementia.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 89200244.5
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	US - A - 3 646 053 (POLETTO et al.) * Claim 1; columns 1,2 *	1,2,7-9	C 07 D 453/02 C 07 D 451/00 C 07 D 413/04
A	EP - A2/A3 - 0 239 309 (MERCK SHARP & DOHME LTD.) * Claims 1,3,7-10 *	1,3,7-10	C 07 D 417/04
A	EP - A1 - 0 083 566 (SANDOZ AG) * Claim 1; page 2 *	1,2,7-9	
A	US - A - 4 342 769 (STEINMAN et al.) * Claim 1 *	1,2,7-9	
P,A	EP - A1 - 0 261 763 (BEECHAM GROUP PLC) * Claims 7,12-14 *	1,3,7-9	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4) C 07 D 453/00 C 07 D 451/00
P,A	DE - A1 - 3 724 059 (SANDOZ-PATENT-GMBH) * Claims 1,3 *	1-3,7-9	C 07 D 413/00 C 07 D 417/00 C 07 D 487/00 C 07 D 471/00
A	FR - A - 2 548 666 (DELALANDE SA) * Claim 1; page 7 *	1-3,7-9	C 07 D 409/00 C 07 D 405/00 C 07 D 403/00
A	DE - A1 - 3 016 415 (G.D. SEARLE & CO) * Claims 1,6; page 6 *	1,3,7-10	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 30-03-1989	Examiner PETROUSEK
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 89200244.5
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	<u>DE - A1 - 3 545 981</u> (SANDOZ-PATENT-GMBH) * Claim 2; page 16 * -----	1, 2, 7-9	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 30-03-1989	Examiner PETROUSEK
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	